

Memorandum



Date: June 28, 2024
From: WHO Collaborating Center for Dracunculiasis Eradication, CDC
Subject: GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #310
To: Addressees

Are you working to make things happen, or waiting to see what happens?

CHAD DECREASING GW INFECTIONS 37% IN 2024

Chad Guinea Worm Eradication Program		
	<u>Total GWs*</u>	<u>Number of Infected Dogs</u>
2019	4,331	1,935
2020	3,498	1,508
2021	1,509	767
2022	1,102	521
2023	899	406
*From humans and animals		

	2023 (Jan-May) 159 infected animals	
		-37%
	2024 (Jan-May) 100 infected animals (provisional)	



After escalating Abate applications since 2019 and introducing proactive tethering of dogs and cats in 2020, Chad’s Guinea Worm Eradication Program (CGWEP) continues to reduce the numbers of known infected dogs and the total numbers of Guinea worms found annually in humans and animals (see box above). Chad reported 406 dogs, 88 cats, and 9 humans with Guinea worm infections in 2023. The CGWEP has reported a provisional total of 90 infected dogs, 10 cats, and 1 human in January-May 2024, which is 37% fewer animal infections than in the same period of 2023, and more than the 22% reduction in infected dogs reported between 2022 and 2023. Guinea worm transmission occurs year-round in Chad, but most of Chad’s infections occur in March-August. As recommended at the recent international program review, Chad’s GWEP is beginning to monitor the effectiveness of Abate applications.

Chad’s Deputy National GWEP Coordinator Dr. Youssouf Ali Haggar and Carter Center Country Representative Dr. Abdalla Meftuh, accompanied by other senior staff, traveled to Salamat on May 22-27, 2024, to review program activities in the province, which reported no human cases and 13 dogs with Guinea

worm infections in 2023, and attend the Amtiman Declaration for Salamat Province on May 25. Salamat was the fifth province to hold separate one-day meetings and make their own provincial Declarations following the national N'Djamena Declaration on February 23, 2024 (see *Guinea Worm Wrap-Up* #307). Moyen Chari Province held its Sarh Declaration on April 8, 2024; Mayo Kebbi East's Bongor Declaration occurred on April 11; Chari Baguirmi's Massenya Declaration was on May 11; and Tandjile held its Lai Declaration on May 15. Each of these provincial Declarations were signed by the respective administrative heads and traditional authorities of departments (*prefets*), subdepartments (*sous prefets*), and districts (*chefs des cantons*). A copy of the Bongor Declaration for Mayo Kebbi East, which borders Cameroon, is included on pages 3-6 of this issue. National GWEP Coordinator Dr. Tchindebet Ouakou attended the first Declaration in Sarh and was represented by the Deputy National GWEP Coordinator at the other ceremonies. Those five provinces reported 95% of Chad's GW infections in 2023.

During a supportive visit to Chad on May 21, 2024, Carter Center Vice President for Overseas Operations Craig Withers met with Minister of Public Health Dr. Abdoulmadjid Abderahim, accompanied by Carter Center Country Representative Dr. Meftuh and Deputy Country Representative Mr. Al Hassana Outman. (CORRECTION: Chad only detected 1 infected wild cat in 2023, in Ardebe village of Haraze district, Salamat Province, on 21 July. Since the laboratory-confirmed GW was un-emerged, this animal did not meet the case definition and is not included in the total number of infected cats.)

CAMEROON GW INFECTIONS DECREASE 52% PROVISIONALLY IN 2024¹



After eliminating Guinea worm in 1997 and being certified GW-free by WHO in 2007, Cameroon's initially-imported GW problem has exploded from a single confirmed human GW case in 2019 in Guere district, which borders Chad's Bongor district; to 5 dogs, 1 cat, and 1 human infected in 2020; 10 dogs in 2021; 28 dogs in 2022; 251 dogs and 7 cats in 2023; and 99 confirmed animal infections in January-May 2024. So far, all these known GW cases and infections have occurred in Guere district. The line list in Table 1 of 14 affected villages summarizes the status of interventions in those villages during Cameroon's peak transmission season in 2024. Ninety-five percent of this year's GW infections in animals were contained. All 14 villages have trained health workers, all received health education during January-May about preventing GWD, and all have at least one source of safe drinking water. In the ten highest endemic villages, which reported 96% of the infected dogs, Abate was applied during the five months in almost 100% of eligible water sources, an average 87% (range: 82%-95%) of eligible dogs were proactively tethered, and an average 67% (range: 16%-87%) of households practiced safe burial of fish guts. Cloth and pipe filters were distributed to 19%-71% of households in those top ten villages. This level of intervention coverage in the ten highest endemic villages, if accurate, should produce significant reductions in indigenous GW infections in Cameroon in 2025. *More attention is needed especially, however, to distribution of cloth and pipe filters, Abate treatments, and proactive tethering of dogs in the four least affected villages.*

¹ There are 125 specimen from animals alleged to be Guinea worm that remain to be processed at the CDC.

THE REPUBLIC OF CHAD

UNITY-WORK-PROGRESS

**PROVINCE OF MAYO-
KEBBI/EAST**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE



COMMITMENT OF THE PREFECTS AND DEPUTY PREFECTS OF THE PROVINCE OF MAYO-KEBBI EAST

- Considering that the problem of eradicating Guinea worm disease is a global commitment to which Chad has subscribed;
- Considering that the fight is multi-sectoral and requires the involvement of all stakeholders;
- Assessing the interventions underway, including the Prolonged Tethering of Cats and Dogs (APCC), the treatment of water sources with Abate, the Communication for Change in Social Behavior and the management of Aquatic Animal Waste (AAD), which require strong involvement of the administrative authorities for them to be at the forefront of the fight;
- The prefects and deputy prefects of the province of Mayo-Kebbi East, meeting on April 11, 2024, in the multimedia room of the ONAPE, made a commitment to be personally involved in on-the-ground initiatives to ensure the effective implementation of all current interventions aimed at eradicating Guinea worm disease throughout the province, ensuring:

The effective involvement of all cantons, village, district and community chiefs in order to:

- a. Monitor the proper implementation of activities (including the Prolonged Tethering of Cats and Dogs (APCC)) related to the eradication of Guinea worm disease;
- b. Conduct targeted awareness-raising missions vis-à-vis affected communities, involving local leaders (relevant sectors) and healthcare personnel to strengthen prevention activities aimed at accelerating the interruption of transmission;
- c. Conduct targeted awareness-raising missions vis-à-vis affected communities to bring about behavioral change.

Bongor, Chad, on April 11, 2024

The prefects and deputy prefects of the province of Mayo-Kebbi East

REPUBLIC OF CHAD
DEPARTMENT OF MAYO-KOUBOU
Préfet
CELINE KASSALET

Préfet Mayo-Boué
ISMAIL AHMAD BAKANG

Préfet de Kabbia
VERKMGOTO GERMAIS

REPUBLIC OF CHAD
DEPARTMENT OF MANDOUKISSI
Préfet
MAHAMAR HAKI BENCHIR

Sous-préfet de Bongor Rural
MAHAMAR EL CHOUKOU

REPUBLIC OF CHAD
DEPARTMENT OF N'GAM
Sous-préfet de Nanguigoto
OHINE MALAMAT TAHIR

Sous-préfet de Malou
IBRAHIM OUMAR NAIDA

REPUBLIC OF CHAD
REGION DU MAYO-KOUBOU
Sous-Préfet Kim
ELADOUZA BOLIKE

REPUBLIC OF CHAD
DEPARTMENT OF MANDOUKISSI
Sous-préfet de Com
ADAM MOUSSE BENCHIR

Sous-préfet de Koyom
BALLAH

Sous-préfet de Yamba
GASPARD BISSOU

Sous-Préfet Bongor Rural
RAKIE KETE

REPUBLIC OF CHAD
PROVINCE DE MANDOUKISSI
Préfet
ELKARIM ANI KHIT

Sous-préfet de Gounou Gaya
SAL SAL SOYOM BIENVENU

REPUBLIC OF CHAD
DEPARTMENT OF MANDOUKISSI
Sous-Préfet
RAKIE KETE

Adopté à Bongor, le 11 Avril 2024

THE REPUBLIC OF CHAD

UNITY-WORK-PROGRESS

PROVINCE OF MAY-KEBBI/EAST

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE



COMMITMENT OF THE CHIEFS OF CANTONS AND VILLAGES IN THE ENDEMIC AREA OF THE GUINEA WORM DISEASE (GWD) IN THE PROVINCE OF MAYO-KEBBI EAST AT THE N'DJAMENA DECLARATION FEEDBACK MEETING, on this day of April 11, 2024

We, Traditional Authorities of the Province of Mayo-Kebbi East, at the N'Djamena Declaration on Guinea Worm Disease feedback meeting held on April 11, 2024, in the National Office for the Promotion of Employment (ONAPE) conference room in Bongor, commit ourselves:

- To ensure strict compliance with the Protocol for the implementation of the Prolonged Tethering of Cats and Dogs (APCC) in villages and districts;
- To limit the number of dogs and cats in two-person households;
- To ensure that each household has a hole for the management of aquatic animal waste;
- To accept the new compensation measure for the APCC;
- To continue to raise awareness of the Guinea worm disease in villages, districts and other community areas;
- To report any deviant behavior by animal owners to the higher authority;
- To facilitate the treatment of ponds in villages and districts;
- To take the lessons learned from the meeting back to the grassroots (women, associations, religious leaders);
- To treat any animal (dog or cat) older than 4 months - that is not tethered in the village under the APCC - as a stray animal without an owner;
- To prepare a monthly report for the deputy prefect on activities carried out to eradicate GWD in their respective villages and cantons, any difficulties encountered, corrective actions taken and recommendations made.

Bongor, April 11, 2024

The chiefs of cantons and village in the Guinea worm endemic area.


REPUBLICQUE DU TCHAD
LE CHEF DE CANTON
Chef de Canton Bongor
DEPART. DE DONSON

SOULOUKNA TORDINA


REPUBLICQUE DU TCHAD
LE CHEF DE CANTON
Chef de Canton Gam
DEPART. DE DONSON

BOUAYANG BAYEUR


REPUBLICQUE DU TCHAD
LE CHEF DE CANTON
Chef de Canton Mestron
DEPART. DE MAYO-KEMBE
LE CHEF DE CANTON
ABDOULAYE GANGANG

ABDOULAYE GANGANG


REPUBLICQUE DU TCHAD
LE CHEF DE CANTON
Chef de Canton Houlon
Canton Houlon
DEPART. DE MONTI
KOLMAN KOLLAH

KOLMAN KOLLAH


REPUBLICQUE DU TCHAD
LE CHEF DE CANTON
Chef de Canton Léo
LE CHEF DE CANTON
ADOUM YAKOUMG

ADOUM YAKOUMG


REPUBLICQUE DU TCHAD
LE CHEF DE CANTON
Chef de Canton
LE CHEF DE CANTON
MADYOUSOUNG

MADYOUSOUNG


REPUBLICQUE DU TCHAD
LE CHEF DE CANTON
Chef de Canton Tougo
LE CHEF DE CANTON
KAMPEH DIAN-MASSOU

KAMPEH DIAN-MASSOU


REPUBLICQUE DU TCHAD
LE CHEF DE CANTON
Chef de Canton
LE CHEF DE CANTON
DJIBRINE SOULEYMANE

DJIBRINE SOULEYMANE


REPUBLICQUE DU TCHAD
LE CHEF DE CANTON
Chef de Canton Gamus
LE CHEF DE CANTON
HARANGUE OSHUA DANGAYE

HARANGUE OSHUA DANGAYE


REPUBLICQUE DU TCHAD
LE CHEF DE CANTON
Représentant
Canton Kiri
LE CHEF DE CANTON
AMOULGAM HUBERT

AMOULGAM HUBERT


REPUBLICQUE DU TCHAD
LE CHEF DE CANTON
Chef de Canton
LE CHEF DE CANTON
AHMED DJIBRINE

AHMED DJIBRINE


REPUBLICQUE DU TCHAD
LE CHEF DE CANTON
Chef de Canton
LE CHEF DE CANTON
OUMAR

OUMAR


REPUBLICQUE DU TCHAD
LE CHEF DE CANTON
Chef de Canton Domo
LE CHEF DE CANTON
ABDOULAYE SEMASOUG

ABDOULAYE SEMASOUG


Repr. Chef de Canton Halbrum

Abdel-Aziz Bakari

Adopté à Bongor, le 11 Avril 2024

As reported previously, Cameroon’s minister of health and the WHO country representative participated in the recent international program review of the GWEP in Atlanta. Karmen Unterwegner, MPH, Associate Director in the Carter Center GWEP for Francophone Countries, completed a supportive visit to Cameroon’s GWEP in late May.

Table 1. Cameroon Guinea Worm Eradication Program, January – May 2024

Village	# lab confirmed infection YTD	% infection contained	Trained health worker? Y/N	# months received GW health ed	% eligible water sources treated (first 5 months of 2024)	% eligible animals tethered (first 5 first months of 2024)	% HH with cloth & pipe filters	% HH practicing safe burial of fish guts	At least one safe drinking source? Y/N	Estimate % of people aware of GW cash reward
Karam 1	12	100%	Y	5	100%	86%	19%	87%	Y	No data
Dabana	30	89%	Y	5	100%	88%	71%	77%	Y	No data
Nouldaina	22	98%	Y	5	100%	84%	24%	84%	Y	No data
Karam 2	10	97%	Y	5	100%	84%	21%	69%	Y	No data
Yakréo	7	94%	Y	5	100%	88%	58%	62%	Y	No data
Naiguissia	3	88%	Y	5	100%	95%	22%	53%	Y	No data
Massa-Koutweita	5	100%	Y	5	92%	82%	54%	69%	Y	No data
Bastebe	5	100%	Y	5	100%	85%	50%	64%	Y	No data
Gadambe	2	90%	Y	5	100%	82%	35%	16%	Y	No data
Dobona	1	100%	Y	5	100%	91%	49%	84%	Y	No data
Baiga	0	80%	Y	5	0%	0%	0%	77%	Y	No data
Dongho	2	100%	Y	5	100%	0%	8%	30%	Y	No data
Massa-Ika	0	100%	Y	5	0%	0%	1%	63%	Y	No data
Gononda	0	100%	Y	5	0%	0%	0%	56%	Y	No data
Total	99									

MALI: GW CHALLENGE REMAINING IN SMALL AREA



As shown in Figure 1, the remaining five districts (of 49 total districts) in Mali where Guinea worm is still endemic are a small fraction of the infection’s formerly endemic region, and now comprises an area of only about 120 x 120 miles (200 x 200 km) in the inland delta of the Niger River. Mali has gone from reporting 16,060 human cases of GWD in 34 districts of 5 regions in 1991 to detecting Guinea worm infections in 41 dogs, 5 cats, 1 donkey, and 0 humans in 2023. And as Table 2 shows, over the past five years 93% of Mali’s infections occur in the six months from May to October, with 76% occurring in only three months, August-October. The violence that has plagued central Mali since 2012 impedes Mali’s ability to conduct surveillance, apply interventions, and stop Guinea worm transmission in dogs that are now driving Guinea worm infections in the country, which is the last focus of Guinea worm in West Africa (*Guinea Worm Wrap-Up #309*). *Mali needs a Guinea Worm Cease-Fire in five districts, for at least six months, May-October, so it can stop GW transmission by 2027 or before and be certified GW-free by 2030.*

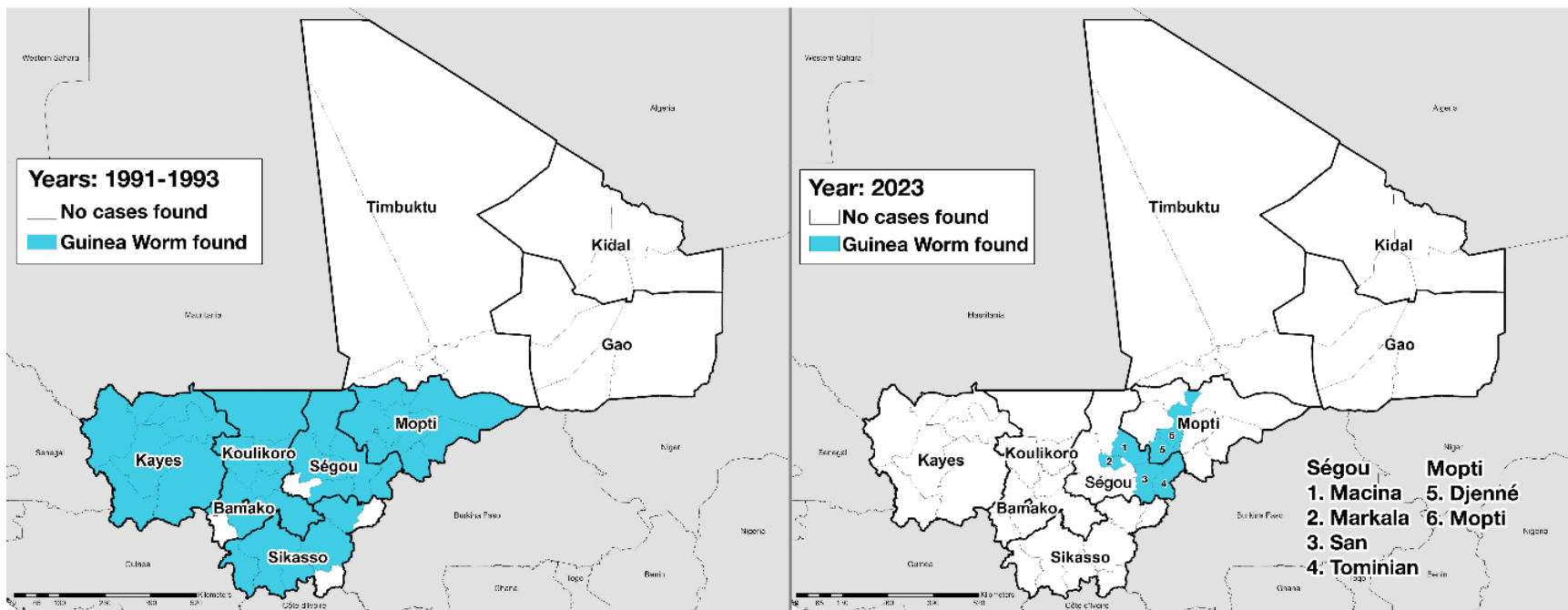


Figure 1. Mali Guinea worm cases by district, 1991-93 and 2023.

Table 2.

Mali Guinea Worm Eradication Program													
Total Guinea Worm Animal Infections and Human Cases by Month, 2019 - 2023													
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
2019	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	5	1	0	0	0	9
2020	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	4	0	1	0	10
2021	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	7	2	1	1	19
2022	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	8	16	9	1	0	41
2023	0	0	0	0	3	4	1	12	16	9	2	1	48
Total	1	0	1	0	5	6	10	33	44	20	5	2	127

In 2019-2023, Mali detected Guinea worms in 103 dogs, 9 cats, and 1 donkey, but only 4 humans. The recent rarity of human GW infections is at least partly because all known communities with GW infections in humans or animals in Mali since 2019 have had at least one source of safe drinking water, and it seems to confirm that most or all human GW cases in Mali now are contracted by eating under-cooked fish or other aquatic animals containing GW larvae. Mali's most recent point source waterborne outbreak of GW in humans was in 2014, but the risk of waterborne outbreaks will remain so long as GW transmission continues in dogs and other animals. While Mali's GWEP has steadily increased containment rates of all known GW infections from 50% (5/10) in 2020 to 58% (11/19) in 2021, 63% (26/41) in 2022, and 77% (36/47) in 2023, the *number of known uncontained GW infections increased* from 5 to 8, 15, and 12 in those four years, along with the total number of known infected animals.

Introducing proactive tethering in November 2021 helped improve containment rates of known infected animals as well as surveillance, but containment and surveillance are still hampered by insecurity. Genetic analysis of Guinea worms from Malian infections in 2022 suggests that the GWEP missed several uncontained GW infections in 2021, a conclusion that is supported by the frequent lack of evidence linking Mali's GW infections to known GW infections in the previous year. In 2022, for example, epidemiological investigations allegedly identified the presumed source of infection (indigenous) for 29 of 41 known GW infections. But while only 4 of 10 Malian communities that reported GW infection in 2021 reported GW again in 2022, 11 new villages that did not report GW in 2021 reported GW infection in 2022. Many of the missed infections are probably dogs, and probably in areas that are less accessible to the program because of insecurity. Mali's GWEP has had 2,000-2,700 villages under active surveillance since 2019, with cash rewards since 2018 for reporting a human case equivalent to about US\$400 and US\$20 for an infected animal, and average awareness of the cash reward of 86% in active surveillance areas. The number of rumors reported annually remains relatively low, increasing from 211 in 2019 to 1,057 in 2023.

IN BRIEF

Angola. Sarah Yerian, MPH, Senior Associate Director of the Carter Center's GWEP, made a supportive visit on May 14-17, during which she paid a courtesy visit to Minister of Health Dr. Silvia Lutucuta, and met with the WHO Country Representative, partner NGOs, and CDC Angola as well as authorities at INIS, the national laboratory responsible for sending Guinea worm specimens to CDC Atlanta. Thirty-seven

specimens from suspected Guinea worm infections in animals in 2024 (January -May) have now been received in Atlanta.

South Sudan. South Sudan GWEP Director Samuel Yibi MAKOY led a team from the SSGWEP, the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation, and the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries to Tonj East County of Warrap State from May 28 to June 7. They conducted a reward ceremony for GW infections that were confirmed in the county in 2023, among other activities. As reported in the previous issue, Tonj East County is one of two hotspots for Guinea worm infections in South Sudan, having reported 2 human cases in 2023 and a serval cat that had an un-emerged confirmed Guinea worm in April 2024. On March 9, 2024, WHO supported a multistakeholder consultative meeting of South Sudan’s National Committee for Dracunculiasis Eradication. The meeting brought on board new members from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Ministry of Wildlife, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (One Health Partners), to discuss modalities of GW transmission in animals in South Sudan.

On May 21st, Mr. Makoy presided at a meeting of One-Health stakeholders at the Palm Africa Hotel in Juba regarding transmission of Guinea worm in animals. Carter Center GWEP Associate Director Giovanna Steel, MA, made a supportive visit to the SSGWEP on March 12-April 4, 2024.

As of June 1, 2024 (provisional):

	Months since last human case (<u>priority</u>)*	Months since last known animal infection (<u>necessity</u>)*
Angola	50	1
Cameroon	12	0
Chad	7	0
Ethiopia	20	9
Mali	9	6
South Sudan	8	2

*36+ *consecutive months* required for *both* indicators.

Table 2
Number of Laboratory-Confirmed Human Cases of Guinea Worm Disease, and Number Reported Contained by Month during 2024*
 (Countries arranged in descending order of cases in 2023)

COUNTRIES WITH TRANSMISSION OF GUINEA WORMS	NUMBER OF CASES CONTAINED / NUMBER OF CASES REPORTED													% CONT.
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL*	
CHAD	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/1								0/0	N/A
SOUTH SUDAN	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0								0/0	N/A
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0								0/0	N/A
CAMEROON	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0								0/0	N/A
MALI	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0								0/0	N/A
TOTAL*	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0								0/0	N/A
% CONTAINED	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A								N/A	

**Provisional*

Cells shaded in black denote months when zero indigenous cases were reported. Numbers indicate how many cases were contained and reported that month.

Numbers indicate how many cases were contained and reported that month.

Number of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases of Guinea Worm Disease, and Number Reported Contained by Month during 2023
 (Countries arranged in descending order of cases in 2022)

COUNTRIES WITH TRANSMISSION OF GUINEA WORMS	NUMBER OF CASES CONTAINED / NUMBER OF CASES REPORTED													% CONT.
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL	
CHAD	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/1	1/1	1/3	1/1	1/2	1/1	0/0	0/0	6/9	67%
SOUTH SUDAN	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/2	0%
ETHIOPIA	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	N/A
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/0	0/1	0%
MALI	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/1	0%
CAMEROON	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/1	100%
TOTAL	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	2/2	1/1	1/3	1/3	1/3	1/2	0/0	0/0	7/14	50%
% CONTAINED	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	100%	33%	33%	33%	50%	N/A	N/A	50%	

Cells shaded in black denote months when zero indigenous cases were reported. Numbers indicate how many cases were contained and reported that month.

Numbers indicate how many cases were contained and reported that month.

MINISTERIAL MEETING ON GW ERADICATION AT WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

THE
CARTER CENTER



World Health
Organization

Representatives of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Mali, and South Sudan participated in the Ministerial Meeting on Guinea Worm Eradication hosted by The Carter Center on May 30, 2024, during the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in Geneva. National representatives included Minister of Health of the C.A.R. Dr. Pierre Somse, South Sudan's Undersecretary of Health Mr. Ader Macar Aciek, Deputy Director General of the Ethiopia Public Health Institute Dr. Melkamu Abte, the National Program Coordinator of Mali's GWEP Dr. Cheick Oumar Coulibaly, and Cameroon's Neglected Tropical Diseases Coordinator Dr. Georges Ako'Ayissi. Representing the director-general, WHO Assistant Director-General Dr. Jerome Solomon gave opening remarks, while other WHO representatives included Dr. Benido Impouma of WHO's African Regional Office, Dr. Rana Hajjeh of WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, Acting Director of Neglected Tropical Diseases Dr. Raman Velayudhan, Dr. Daniel Argaw Dagne, Unit Head Neglected Tropical Diseases and Dr. Dieudonne Sankara, Team Lead Eradication and Elimination (including GWE) at WHO headquarters. Major donors to the GWEP, including from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the United Arab Emirates' Presidential Court, and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation also joined the meeting. Carter Center GWEP Director Adam Weiss, MPH chaired the roundtable format in which a representative of each country commented on accomplishments since the Abu Dhabi Summit in 2022, key programmatic challenges, and what they plan to do to accelerate progress this year. Other Carter Center attendees included GWEP Program Assistant Valerie Mendes, MA, the Director of River Blindness, Lymphatic Filariasis, Schistosomiasis and Malaria Dr. Gregory Noland, Associate Director of Special Health Programs Dr. Anyess Travers, and Madelle Hatch and Kate Braband of the Development Office. Adam Weiss also met separately with the ministers of health of several endemic countries, including Ethiopia and Mali, during the World Health Assembly.

THANK YOU, GUINEA WORM WARRIOR KARMEN UNTERWEGNER

Karmen Unterwegner, MPH, Associate Director in The Carter Center's GWEP headquarters in Atlanta since 2018, left that position on June 7 to assume a new position at the Center. She first joined The Carter Center in 2013 as a Technical Advisor to the GWEP in Chad. She has worked and traveled tirelessly since 2018 assisting and advising the GWEPs in Cameroon, Chad, and Mali. We wish her well in her new position and thank her heartedly for her contributions to eradication of the Great Worm!

NEW GUINEA WORM DOCUMENTARY

THE PRESIDENT AND THE DRAGON was acquired by Buffalo 8 at the Cannes Film Festival! News of the new Guinea worm documentary securing a global distributor was a DEADLINE Hollywood exclusive.

From Sudanese writer, director, and producer Waleed Eltayeb and Irish director-cinematographer Ian D. Murphy, the film features the struggle to eradicate Guinea worm disease in South Sudan. The official trailer and film will soon be available for viewing on various platforms and streaming services.

Buffalo 8 has a successful ten-year track record of distributing films around the world. Buffalo 8's parent company is Bondlt Media Capital, whose completed financial deals include films with major movie stars.

Many Guinea Worm Warriors contributed to making this documentary possible.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Haynes E, Garrett K, Box E, Zirimwabagabo H, Ouakou P, Abernathy K, Yabsley M, Cleveland C, 2023. Using point-of-view cameras (Critttercams) to document potential risk behaviors for Guinea worm (*Dracunculus medinensis*) transmission in domestic cats in Chad, Africa. Appl Anim Behav Sci 258:105796. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2022.105796>

World Health Organization, 2024. Dracunculiasis eradication: global surveillance summary, 2023. Wkly Epidemiol Rec 99(20):249-269. <http://www.who.int/wer>

Are the right people receiving the Guinea Worm Wrap-Up?

We remind leaders of National Guinea Worm Eradication Programs to make sure all appropriate persons are receiving the *Guinea Worm Wrap-Up* directly, by email. With frequent turnover of government officials, representatives of partner organizations, and recruitment of new Guinea worm program staff, keeping desired recipients up to date is challenging. Frequent review of who is receiving the newsletter directly is advised. To add an addressee, please send their name, title, email address, and preferred language (English, French, or Portuguese) to Dr. Sharon Roy at CDC (gwwrapup@cdc.gov).

Note to contributors: Submit your contributions via email to Dr. Sharon Roy (gwwrapup@cdc.gov) or to Adam Weiss (adam.weiss@cartercenter.org), by the end of the month for publication in the following month's issue. Contributors to this issue were: the national Guinea Worm Eradication Programs, Dr. Donald Hopkins and Adam Weiss of The Carter Center, Dr. Sharon Roy of CDC, and Dr. Dieudonné Sankara of WHO. Formatted by Mindze Nkanga. Translation support by Valerie Mendes.

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Back issues are also available on the Carter Center web site in English, French, and Portuguese and are located at http://www.cartercenter.org/news/publications/health/guinea_worm_wrapup_english.html.

http://www.cartercenter.org/news/publications/health/guinea_worm_wrapup_francais.html

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