

Memorandum

 **Date:** April 30, 2018

**From:** WHO Collaborating Center for Dracunculiasis Eradication, CDC

**Subject:** GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #254

**To:** Addressees

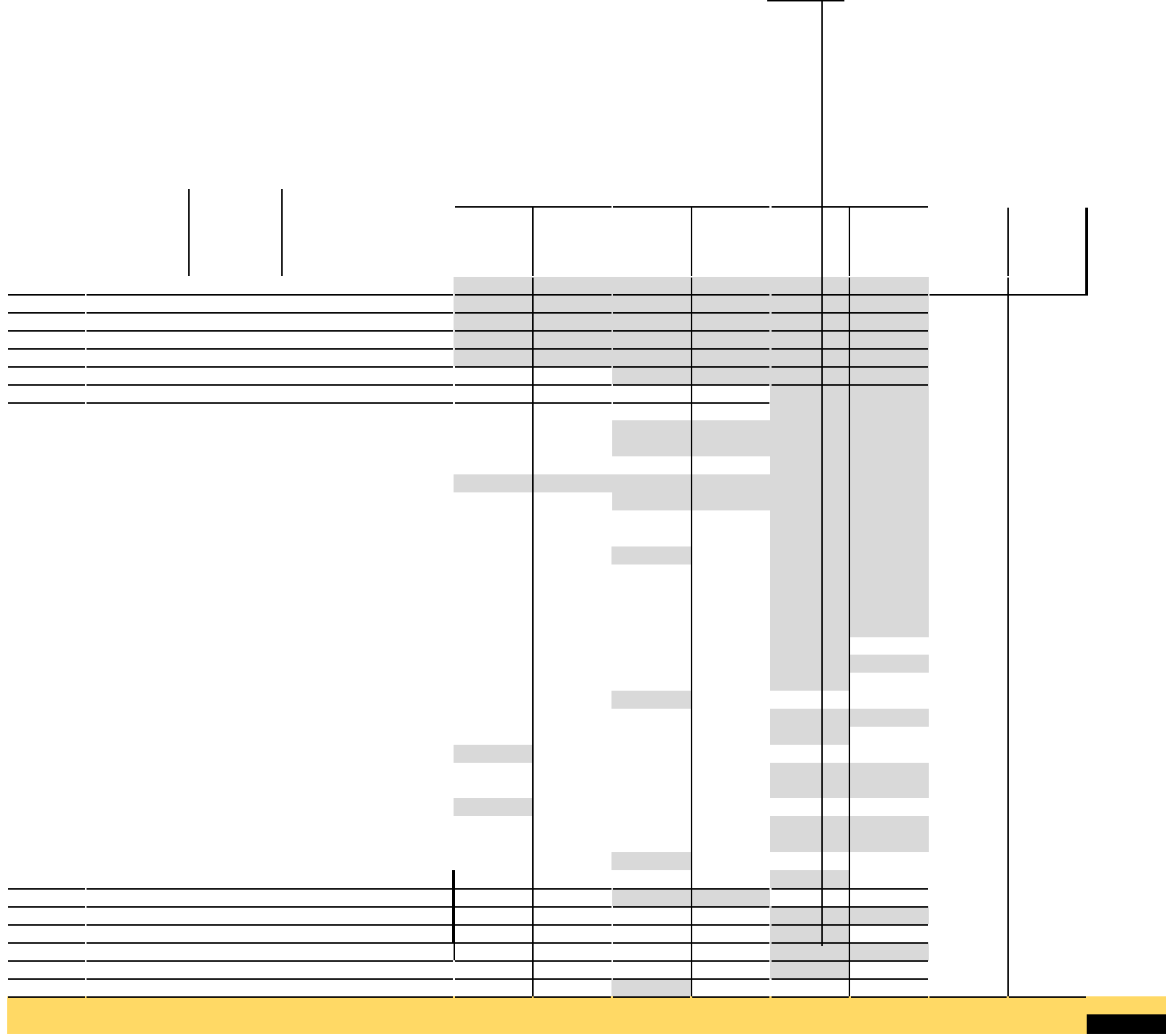
**Every uncontained Guinea worm from any source can spread infection!**

### **SOUTH SUDAN ANNOUNCES END OF GUINEA WORM TRANSMISSION**

In a press conference held at The Carter Center in Atlanta, USA on March 21, 2018, the Minister of Health of South Sudan, the Honorable Dr. Riek Gai Kok, announced that his country had successfully interrupted transmission of Guinea worm disease, “having reduced cases from 20,581 in 2006 to zero in 2017”. The minister said “This is a massive achievement for our young nation and for our common humanity....Future generations will just read in books about Guinea worm.” He pledged that his government would work with The Carter Center, World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF to “join the family of countries already certified free of Guinea worm disease”. Goodwill Ambassador for Guinea Worm Eradication Dr. Tebebe Yemane Berhan, Dr. Donald Hopkins of The Carter Center and Dr. Gautam Biswas of WHO also participated in the announcement, which was witnessed by the director of South Sudan’s Guinea Worm Eradication Program Mr. Samuel

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Underway since late 2016, the separate trials of treatment of dogs at risk with Heartgard® (Merial) and Advocate/Advantage® (Bayer) anthelmintics have not demonstrated effectiveness either to prevent or cure Guinea worm infections in dogs. During the research mission in April (see below), larvae from an adult Guinea worm removed from a dog that had received at least 15 monthly







## **TWENTY-SECOND INTERNATIONAL GWEP PROGRAM MANAGERS MEETING**

Co-hosted by The Carter Center and the World Health Organization, the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Review Meeting of Guinea Worm Eradication Program Managers was convened at The Carter Center in Atlanta, USA on March 21-22, 2018.

Over 118 participants attended the meeting, which included a one-half hour long Press Conference during which the Minister of Health of South Sudan announced the interruption of Guinea worm transmission in his country (see above). The meeting

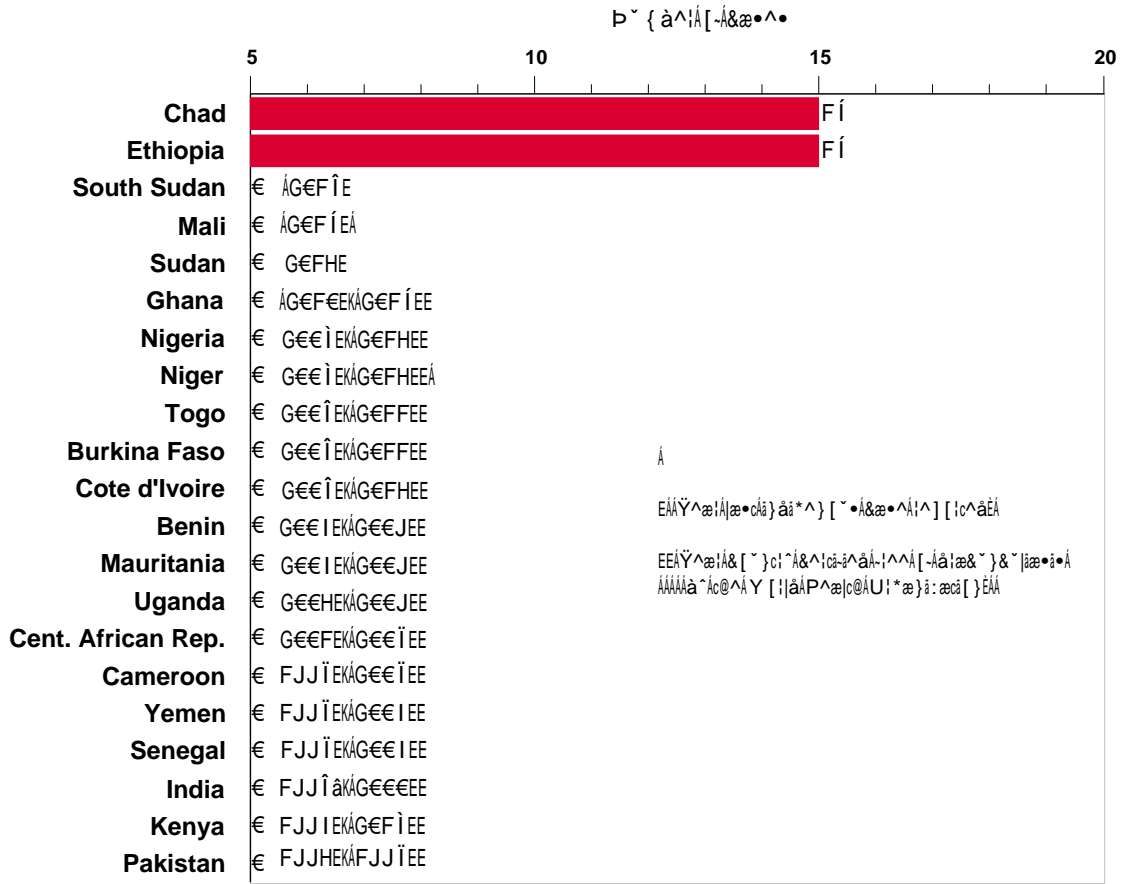
to prevent a repeat of the 2017 outbreak of GWD in investment farms without safe sources of drinking water for their staff and/or their labor force. Accordingly, the new Minister of Health of Ethiopia, His Excellency Dr Amir Aman discussed these needed initiatives with Mr. Gatluak Tut, President of Gambella Region and requested the President to hold meetings with farm owners and to improve or provide safe and adequate drinking water in the investment farms of Gambella region.

**Mali** has reported no case of Guinea worm disease since November 2015 (29 consecutive months as of the end of April 2018). In March, the National Committee for Certification of Guinea Worm Eradication visited six districts in Segou Region. The secretariat of the national program made supervisory mM



Figure 2

**Distribution of 30 Indigenous Cases of Dracunculiasis Reported during 2017**



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