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

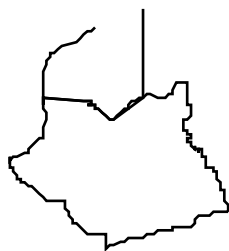
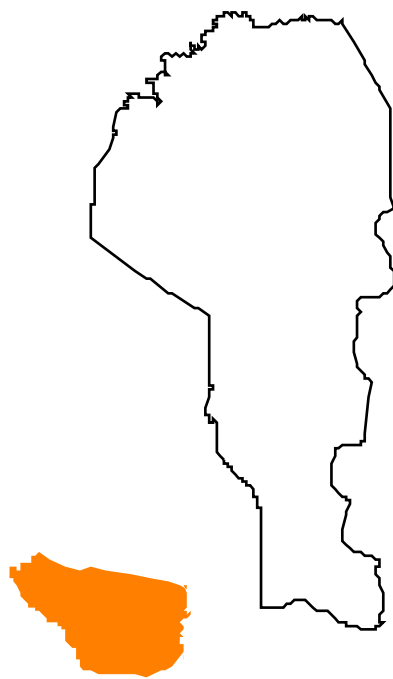
Subject: GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #87

To: Addresses

Detect Every Case, Contain Every Worm!

BENIN: AIMING TO BREAK TRANSMISSION IN 1999; GLOBAL 2000 PROVIDES EMERGENCY FUNDING

According to data supplied by the national coordinator, Dr. Aristide Paraiso, Benin reported a total of 695 cases of dracunculiasis in 181 endemic villages and hamlets in 1998. This represents a reduction of -19% from the 855 cases reported in 1997, and -15% from the 212 endemic villages





Benin's target is to interrupt all transmission of dracunculiasis in 1999. As in some other countries, the high rate of reported case containment in 1997 (85%) was not reflected in overall reduction of cases in 1998 (-19%), but Oueme Department clearly shows what Benin's Guinea Worm Eradication Program can do. This program improved distribution of cloth filters and use of Abate in 1998, although bandaging of cases was infrequent during most of the year. Global 2000/The Carter Center has provided almost \$30,000 in emergency funding for this program over the past two months, because of delays in expected support from other sources. These funds are helping the Benin program to prepare cloth filters, provide supervision, and maintain its secretariat during the current peak transmission season. Global 2000 also provided Mr. Harry Godfrey for a one month return consultation in January-February. The Government of Benin has agreed to provide approximately 40 million FCFA (~\$61,000) later this year for transportation and health education.

FIVE OF GHANA'S TEN REGIONS HAVE NO INDIGENOUS CASES IN SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1998



As indicated in **Figure 3**, five of the ten regions of Ghana reported no indigenous cases during the four month period of September-December 1998, which includes two months of Ghana's peak transmission season (November-April). Four regions (Western, Greater Accra, Ashanti, Upper East) reported no indigenous cases in all of 1998. In 1998, 94% of Ghana's cases were reported from Northern, Brong-Ahafo, and Volta Regions. World Vision began drilling in the first week of February to provide safe drinking water for the town of Savelugu, in Northern Region. Ghana, which remains the third-highest endemic country, after Sudan and Nigeria, is aiming to stop all transmission of dracunculiasis by the end of this year.

NIGERIA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS; NEW "GUINEA WORM CLOTH"

The Steering Committee of Nigeria's Guinea Worm Eradication Program (NGEP) met in Jos, Plateau State, on February 1, under the chairmanship of National Program Coordinator Dr. K.A. Ojodu. Dr. Ernesto Ruiz-Tiben, the technical director for Dracunculiasis Eradication Program, Global 2000 / The Carter Center, participated in the meeting, as did the chief of UNICEF/ Nigeria's Water and Environmental Sanitation Section, Mr. Mansoor M. Ali, and Global 2000 country representative Dr. Emmanuel S. Miri, and the four zonal facilitators. The group reviewed plans and control measures being taken during the peak transmission season in Southeast and Southwest Zones. Key concerns are the need for improving execution of interventions and active surveillance in endemic villages of those two zones. Inadequate transport for field supervisors is still a major constraint, and Guinea worm vehicles that are being used primarily or exclusively for other purposes in Benue, Cross River and Enugu States need to be returned to the Guinea worm program. UNICEF / Nigeria

offered to provide plastic funnels and Global 2000 the nylon cloth needed to fabricate 20,000 funnel filters for distribution mostly in the SE and SW Zones. The latest shipments of Abate and filter material have been cleared from the port. At the steering committee meeting, NIGEP began distributing two Nigerian versions of "Guinea Worm Cloth", the pattern of which is reproduced here. Global 2000 provided \$10,000 to support development of the pattern and purchase of the first 10,000 meters of the new cloth, and the Federal Ministry of Health plans to purchase an additional equal amount. NIGEP will observe National Guinea Worm Eradication Week this year on March 21 – 25.

Provisional reports show a total of 1,358 cases in Nigeria in January 1999, of which 596 (44%) were contained. This represents a reduction of 12% from the 1,549 cases reported in January 1998. The low rate of case containment is mainly due to more accurate reporting of case containment rates in Southeast Zone, which reported 1,020 of the cases, and containment of 353 (35%). Ebonyi (662), Benue (208) and Oyo (158) States reported 1,028 (76%) of the cases in January.



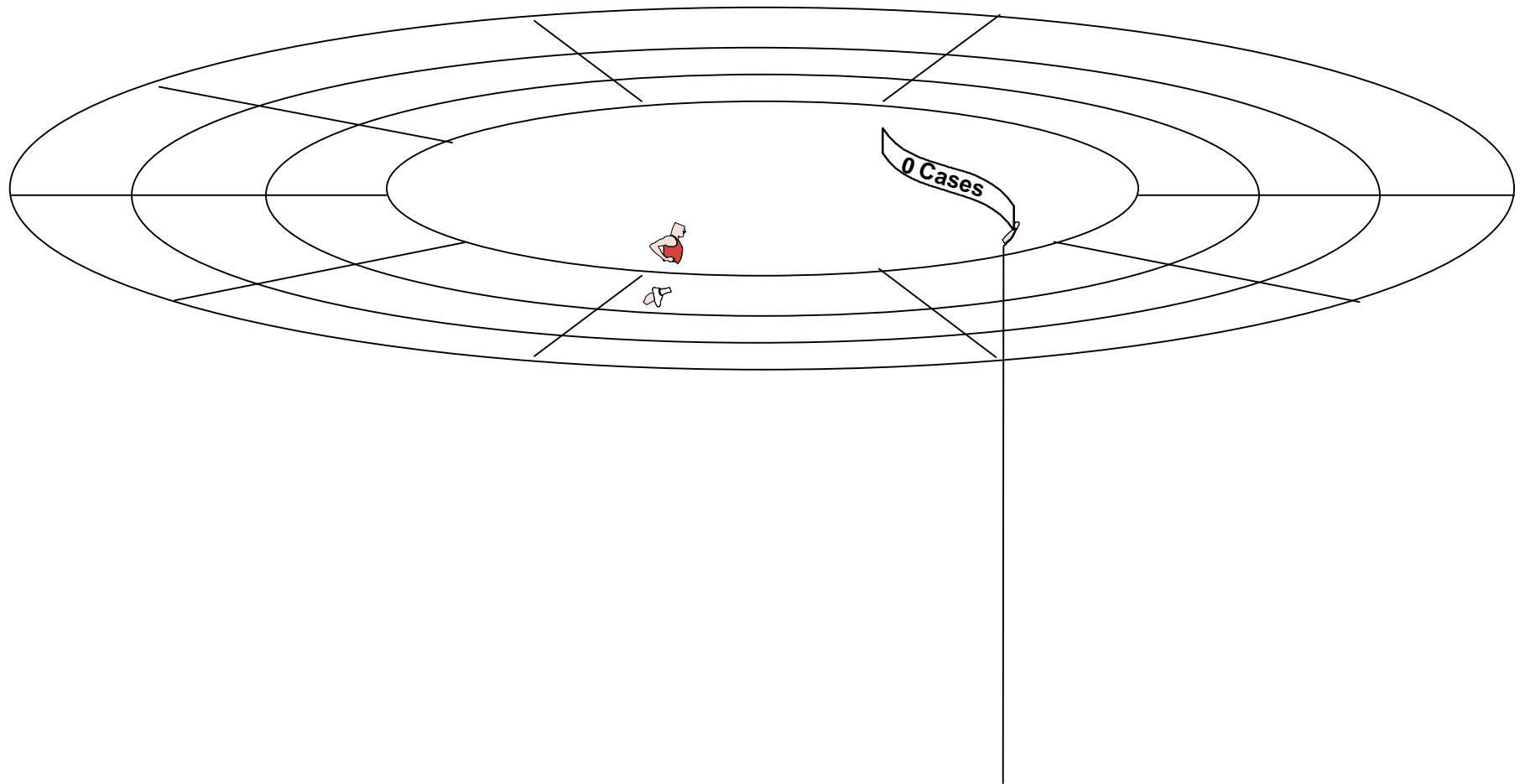


Figure 5

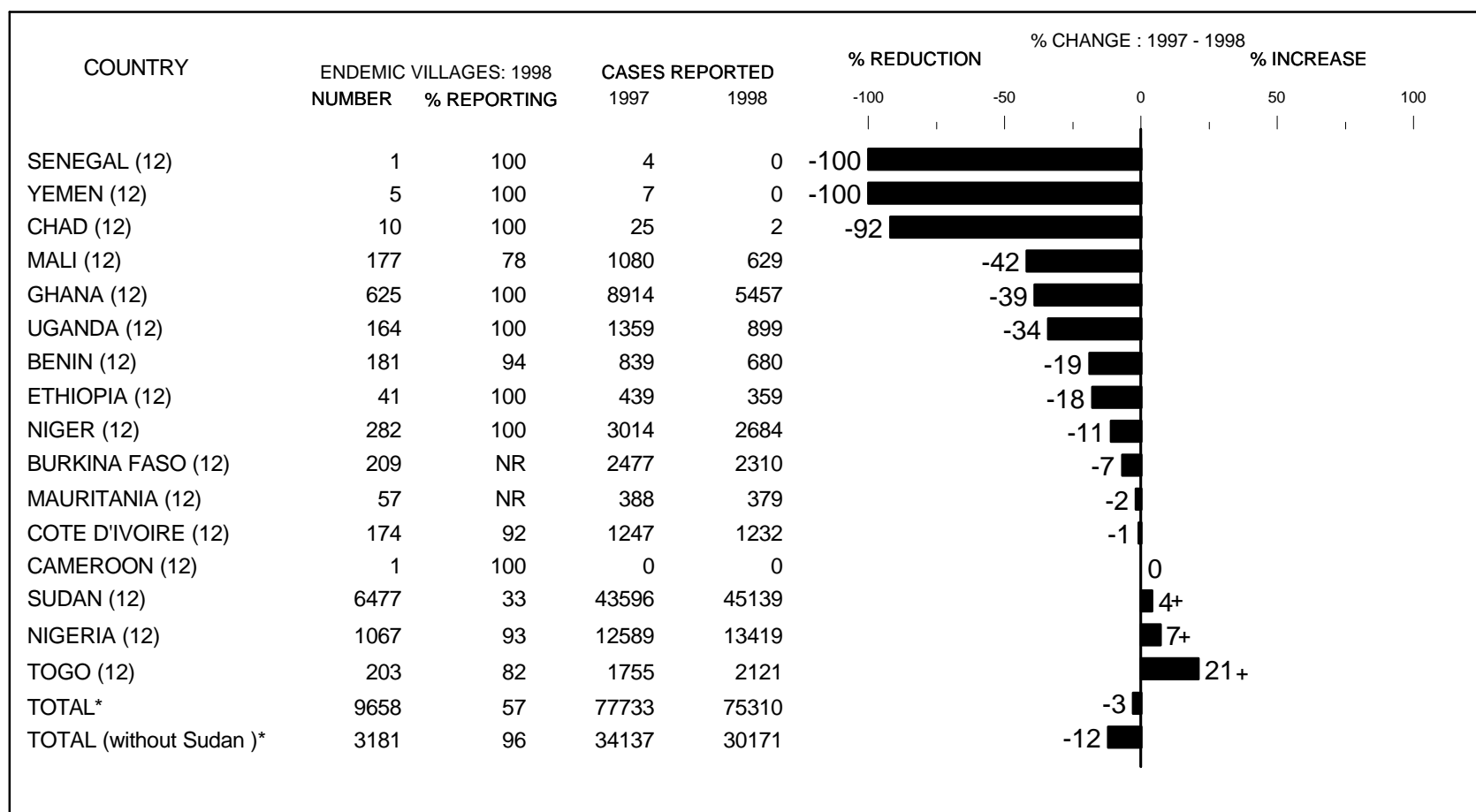
**Number of cases contained and number reported by month during 1998*
(Countries arranged in descending order of cases in 1997)**

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF CASES CONTAINED / NUMBER OF CASES REPORTED												TOTAL*	CONT.	%
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER			
SUDAN	465 / 1328	856 / 1254	889 / 1524	1618 / 2627	2135 / 3485	3580 / 6058	3433 / 7432	3374 / 5820	4242 / 6814	2344 / 5500	1111 / 2974	227 / 323	24274 / 45139	54	
NIGERIA	1544 / 1549	1188 / 1259	1199 / 1279	854 / 955	952 / 1234	953 / 1484	954 / 1395	800 / 1197	412 / 659	481 / 907	348 / 738	499 / 764	10184 / 13420	76	
GHANA **	870 / 1278	535 / 709	478 / 554	276 / 382	208 / 263	169 / 226	132 / 178	40 / 58							



Figure 6

**PERCENTAGE OF ENDEMIC VILLAGES REPORTING
AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN NUMBER OF INDIGENOUS CASES OF DRACUNCULIASIS
DURING 1997 AND 1998 *, BY COUNTRY**



* Provisional. Totals do not include imported cases.

(8) Denotes number of months for which reports were received, e.g., Jan. - Aug., 1998

NR Countries with unknown or low rate of reporting.

KENYA: SEVEN CASES IMPORTED FROM SUDAN



According to reports by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Hospital in Lopiding, Kenya, seven patients with dracunculiasis who were imported into Kenya from Sudan were seen at that hospital in 1998:

Sex	Age	Village of Origin	Date Worm Emerged
Male	28	Panyagor	1 July 1998
Male	20	Boma	7 July 1998
Male	35	Tonj	Juner93.8

Uganda. Uganda Guinea Worm Eradication Program held an inter-district meeting of 5 remaining endemic districts from 15 to 16th February 1999 in Kotido town. Addressing a well-attended meeting of about 150 people comprising Local district leaders, sub county guinea worm supervisors, district health teams, water officers and district Administrators from Kotido, Moroto, Kitgum, Gulu and Arua, the Minister of State for Health Dr. P. Byaruhanga appealed to district political leaders and administrators to support field workers to interrupt guinea worm transmission cycle this year. He called upon the Programme to eradicate Guinea worm this year. Accompanying the Minister were representatives of UNICEF and WHO, Mr. Bill Fellows and Dr. Josephine Namboze respectively, who echoed the same call to accomplish eradication as soon as possible.

The objectives of the meeting were to solicit political support and commitment both from central and local governments and to formulate the strategies to lead the program in the final assault to eradication.

Before the meeting started about 3 hours were spent visiting four highly endemic sub-counties of Kotido.

Several recommendations were made. Of particular interest were those made by local leaders who resolved to support the program by committing themselves to do the following:

For every sub-county to allocate some funds in their budget to Guinea worm eradication.

To form village committees to look after every water source for maintenance and protection.

To have a caretaker constantly guarding a water source who should never allow a person with an emerging worm to step in a pond and to ensure that everyone filters water at source.

To constantly conduct inter-district meetings to address the insecurity problem between the nomadic Karamoja herdsmen and neighbouring districts. The first meeting was to be held on 17th February 1999 at the border Kalongo in Kitgum to be attended by district political heads (Local Council-5 Chairman), security secretaries, Guinea worm district co-ordinators, and 4 Guinea worm Sub-county supervisors per district.

To involve many leaders in verification of Guinea worm cases for reward system that is to be introduced in Karamoja in July this year.

UGWEP's target is to interrupt Guinea Worm transmission cycle this year.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Peries H, de Rooy C, Nwe Y