

# Weekly epidemiological record

# Relevé épidémiologique hebdomadaire

18 SEPTEMBER 2009, 84th



– PCC) recommendation that transmission had been interrupted there. The 3-year PTS period to detect transmission recrudescence began in 2008. If the PTS

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PAHO/WHO in 2011 (Fig. 1).

**Ecuador** has a single endemic focus in Esmeraldas Province (the Esmeraldas–Pichincha focus), which

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treatment round of 2008. UTG coverage was only 76.6% due to failure to reach 9 endemic communities (out of a total of 84). The programme recovered treatment operations during the second round and reached 93.8% UTG coverage; overall, the programme provided a combined total of 27 372 treatments in 2008 of the UTG(2) of 32118, thereby managing to achieve a treatment cov-

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mala focus. In the other 2 foci, the coverage goal has been surpassed for the seventh consecutive year by providing 234 745 ivermectin treatments in 2008, 92% of a UTG(2) of 253 928. Based on epidemiological evaluations conducted in 2008 in the Huehuetenango focus, the PCC concluded that onchocerciasis transmission had been interrupted and recommended to the Guatemalan Ministry of Health that treatment could be halted in that focus in 2009. The Ministry of Health announced at IACO 2008 that it had accepted that recommendation.

**Mexico** has 3 endemic foci (Oaxaca, Southern Chiapas and Northern Chiapas) of which only 2 (Oaxaca and Southern Chiapas) were under MDA in 2008. In 2007, the Mexican Ministry of Health agreed to stop ivermectin treatment in the North Focus of Chiapas in 2008, based on a PCC recommendation that transmission had been interrupted there. In the remaining 2 foci, 268 761 treatments were provided in 2008, 94% of the UTG(2) of 286 404. Coverage was >85% for the eighth consecutive year. Since 2003, Mexico has also been providing ivermectin quarterly in 50 of its most highly endemic communities in the Southern Chiapas focus as part of a trial aimed at hastening onchocerciasis elimination. In 2008, the PCC concluded that onchocerciasis transmission had been interrupted in the Oaxaca focus and recommended that treatments be stopped in that focus. The Mexican Ministry of Health accepted the PCC recommendation and announced at IACO 2008 that ivermectin treatments would be suspended in Oaxaca in 2009.

**Venezuela** has 3 endemic foci: North-Central, North-east and South (part of the Yanomami Area discussed in the section on Brazil). The North-Central and North-east foci reached their treatment coverage goals for the sixth consecutive year. Overall, Venezuela provided 190 529 treatments, 94% of the UTG(2) of 203 364.

**Editorial note.** The main theme of IACO 2008 was "Last call to interrupt transmission of *Onchocerca volvulus* by 2012". This resolution was issued in 2008 by PAHO's Directing Council. This resolution is a continuation of the original PAHO resolution against onchocerciasis made in 1991 (CD35.R14), which called for the elimination of all new ocular morbidity attributable to onchocerciasis in the Region of the Americas by 2007. At the end of 2007, active eye disease (DWWULEXWDEOHWRRQF~~19%~~PLFLDVLDV~~19%~~GHÀQHG D V D OHQFH RI PLFURÀODULDHLQWKHF~~19%~~FRUQHD RU DQWHULRU FKDP~~19%~~EHU of the eye) was only found in Brazil and Venezuela; there has been no incident blindness attributable to onchocerciasis in the region since 1995. The new resolution calls for completion of the elimination of ocular disease, as well as interruption of transmission of *O. volvulus* by 2012. It also called for continued support of the established OEPA structures, including the PCC. The resolution recognized the importance of political will by national authorities and OEPA partners as fundamental to reaching the goal of elimination of onchocerciasis from the Americas.

2 autres foyers, les objectifs de la couverture ont été dépassés pour la septième année consécutive, avec la fourniture de 234 745 traitements en 2008, soit 92% des 253 928 de l'OTF(2). Sur la base des évaluations épidémiologiques faites en 2008 dans le foyer de Huehuetenango, le Comité de coordination des programmes a conclu que la transmission avait été interrompue et a recommandé au Ministère de la Santé b5(r)8(ete5id ete5)>6idèque cesser les traitements dans ce foyer en 2009. Le Ministère de la Santé a annoncé à la conférence de 2008 qu'il acceptait cette recommandation.

**Le Mexique** a 3 foyers d'endémie (Oaxaca, nord du Chiapas et sud du Chiapas) et seulement 2 d'entre eux (Oaxaca et sud du Chiapas) ont eu des DMM en 2008. En 2007, le Ministère de la Santé mexicain a décidé de cesser les traitements dans le nord du Chiapas, après que le Comité de coordination des programmes a constate5id e l'interruption de la transmission. Dans les 2 foyers restants, 268 761 traitements ont été fournis en 2008, soit 94% des 286 404 de l'OTF(2). La couverture a dépassé 85% pour la huitième année consécutive. D5(r)8epuis 2003, le Mte5iexique distribue aussi l'ivermectine tous les trimestres dans 50 des communautés où l'endémie est la plus forte dans le sud du Chiapas, dans le cadre d'un essai visant à accélérer l'élimination. En 2008, le Comité de coordination des programmes a

Ecuador's failure to reach the 85% coverage goal in the programme had missed its treatment goal in 14 consecutive treatment rounds spanning from 2001 to 2007.

At the end of 2008, of the original 13 endemic foci in the region, transmission had been interrupted in half (6.5 foci, the half-focus being the Río Santiago in Ecuador), all of which have now started the 3-year period of PTS. However, it is only in Colombia where the entire F R X Q W U \ L V X Q G H U 3 7 6 D Q G V R try in the region to have achieved country-wide interruption of the transmission of the parasite. As such, the PTS period is actually (in the terminology of WHO cer W L À F D W L R Q J X L G H O L Q H V D ' S U H Z K L F K W K H F R X Q W U \ P D \ U H T X H V procedures. Fig. 1 shows the proposed time line leading to such a request to WHO by each endemic country. Based on the progress being made, and the projections of time needed to achieve interruption of transmission in each remaining focus, IACO 2008 declared 2016 as the year in which all countries should have requested WHO cer W L À F D W L R Q S U R F H G X U H V 7 K H < Brazil and Venezuela foci, is projected to be the last to reach this point.

Other key conclusions and recommendations from IACO 2008 included:

1. In 2009, MDA continues in 7 foci (Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala's Central endemic zone, Mexico's South Chiapas focus and all 3 foci in Venezuela). Transmission appears to be suppressed in 2 of these foci (Ecuador and South Chiapas).
2. Strategies and actions are needed that will advance the elimination of the disease from Brazil and Venezuela, particularly for the Yanomami area.
3. Ministries of Health, political leaders and donors must recognize that onchocerciasis programs do not cease when ivermectin treatments are halted. Programmatic activities must continue for a minimum of three years in Post-Treatment Surveillance (PTS), in accord with WHO guidelines.
4. When ivermectin treatments are halted, ministries of health should consider instituting other programmes in formerly endemic onchocerciasis villages, using the onchocerciasis infrastructure established for MDA. The most obvious candidate programme to launch would be an MDA effort against soil transmitted helminths using albendazole or mebendazole.
5. The country representatives from the 6 endemic countries committed themselves to achieving elimination of ocular morbidity and interruption of transmission of *O. volvulus* by the end of 2012. 7

L'échec de l'Équateur pour atteindre les 85% de couverture à U V W U R X Q G R I Z D V G X H W R p en la DMM de 2008 a été imputable à la faible couverture de l'MDA dans lequel des 13 foyers publics. C'était la première fois que le programme équatorien n'a pas atteint son objectif thérapeutique, après 14 tournées consécutives de 2001 à 2007.

Fin 2008, la transmission avait été interrompue dans la moitié des 13 foyers d'endémie de la région (soit 6,5 foyers, le 0,5 correspondant au Río Santiago en Équateur). Chacun d'entre eux a commencé la phase de 3 ans de surveillance post-thérapeutique. Néanmoins, la Colombie est le seul pays dont l'ensemble du territoire a atteint la phase de surveillance post-thérapeutique. Parvenu à l'interruption nationale de la transmission du parasite. Dès lors, cette période devient pour la Colombie, conformément à la demande de l'OMS de 2008, une demande de dépose de la demande. Sur la base des progrès accomplis et de la projection des délais nécessaires pour interrompre la transmission dans chacun des foyers restants, la Conférence interaméricaine sur l'onchocercose a déclaré que 2016 serait l'année où tous les pays devraient déposer leur demande à l'OMS de 2016. La dernière à parvenir à ce stade.

Par ailleurs, la Conférence de 2008 a abouti aux conclusions et recommandations essentielles suivantes:

1. En 2009, les DMM se poursuivent dans 7 foyers (au Brésil, en Équateur, dans la zone d'endémie Centrale du Guatemala, le foyer du sud du Chiapas au Mexique et dans les 3 foyers du Venezuela). La transmission semble supprimée dans 2 de ces foyers (Équateur et sud du Chiapas).
2. Il faut des stratégies et des actions pour faire progresser l'élimination au Brésil et au Venezuela, notamment dans la zone Yanomami.
3. Les ministères de la santé, les dirigeants politiques et les donateurs doivent reconnaître que les programmes de lutte contre l'onchocercose ne prennent pas fin avec la cessation des traitements à l'ivermectine. Conformément aux directives de l'OMS, les activités des programmes doivent se poursuivre pendant au moins 3 ans, correspondant à la durée minimale de la surveillance post-thérapeutique.
4. Quand les traitements à l'ivermectine cessent, les ministères de la santé doivent envisager d'instaurer d'autres programmes dans les anciens villages d'endémie, en tirant parti des infrastructures de lutte contre l'onchocercose, installées pour les DMM. Un programme de distributions massives de médicaments contre les géohelminthes, albendazole ou mébendazole, ferait partie des plus évidents à lancer dans cette optique.
5. Les représentants des 6 pays d'endémie se sont engagés à éliminer la morbidité oculaire et à interrompre la transmission d'*O. volvulus* d'ici 2012. 7

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## Vaccine-derived polioviruses

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June 2009

In 1988, the World Health Assembly resolved to eradicate poliomyelitis worldwide. Since then, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) has succeeded in reducing both the global incidence of polio associated with wild polioviruses (WPVs), from an estimated 350000 cases in 125 countries in 1988 to 1651 reported cases in 2008, and the number of countries never interrupting WPV transmission to 4 (Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan)<sup>1</sup>. However, because vaccine-derived polioviruses (VDPVs) can generate poliomyelitis outbreaks in areas with low rates of coverage with Sabin oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV) and can replicate

I R U \H D U V L Q L P P X Q R G H A F L H Q W L Q G L Y L G X D O V H Q K D Q F H G  
strategies are needed to limit the emergence of VDPVs and stop all use of OPV once WPV transmission has been eliminated<sup>2</sup>. This report updates previous sum--

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Tableau 1 Poliovirus dérivés de souches vaccinales (PV<sup>DV</sup>) détectés dans le monde, 2005-2009

Category Catégorie	Country – Pays	Year(s) detected Année(s) de détection	Source	Serotype		No. of isolates: cases (contacts) [samples] from Sabin OPV doses of polio vaccine replication <sup>b</sup>	Estimated duration of VDPV <sup>a</sup> Durée estimée de la réplication du PV <sup>DV</sup>	Current status (date of last outbreak case, last patient isolate, or last environmental sample) Situuation actuelle (date du dernier cas de la maladie, du dernier isolat de patient ou du dernier échantillon environnemental)
				Sérotype	No. of isolates: cases (contacts) [samples] from Sabin OPV doses of polio vaccine replication <sup>b</sup>			
cVDPV – PV <sup>DV</sup> c	Nigeria – Nigéria	2005–2009	Outbreak: 292 cases Flambée: 292 cas	2	292	0.5–5.1	61%	5 years – 5 ans 27 June 2009 – 27 juin 2009
	Guinea – Guinée	2009	Importation: 1 case Importation: 1 cas	2	1	3.5	71%	– 12 May 2009 – 12 mai 2009
	Democratic Republic of the Congo – République démocratique du Congo	2005–2009	Outbreak: 20 cases Flambée: 20 cas	2	33	1.0–2.0	68%	4 years – 4 ans 7 March 2009 – 7 mars 2009
	Ethiopia – Éthiopie	2008–2009	Outbreak: 4 cases – Flambée: 4 cas	2	4	1.2	75%	1 year – 1 an 16 February 2009 – 16 février 2009
iVDPV –	Argentina – Argentine	2009	AFP patient (XLA) Sujet PFA (XLA)	1	1	3.6–3.8	94%	t15 months – t15 mois





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UHVSLUDWRU\ LQVXIÀFLHQF\ 6KH GLHG LQ ODUFK IURP



<p><b>How to obtain the WER through the Internet</b></p> <p>(1) WHO WWW SERVER Use WWW navigation software to connect to the WER pages at the following address:  <a href="http://www.who.int/wer/">http://www.who.int/wer/</a></p> <p>(2) An e-mail subscription service exists, which provides by electronic mail the table of contents of the WER, together with other short epidemiological bulletins. To subscribe, send a message to <a href="mailto:listserv@who.int">listserv@who.int</a>. The subject field should be left blank and the body of the message should contain only the line subscribe wer-reh. A request for confirmation will be sent in reply.</p>	<p><b>Comment accéder au REH sur Internet?</b></p> <p>1) Par le serveur Web de l'OMS: A l'aide de votre logiciel de navigation WWW, connectez-vous à la page d'accueil du REH à l'adresse suivante: <a href="http://www.who.int/reh/">http://www.who.int/reh/</a></p> <p>2) Il existe également un service d'abonnement permettant de recevoir chaque semaine par courrier électronique la table des matières du REH ainsi que d'autres bulletins épidémiologiques. Pour vous abonner, merci d'envoyer un message à <a href="mailto:listserv@who.int">listserv@who.int</a> en laissant vide le champ du sujet. Le texte lui-même ne devra contenir que la phrase suivante: subscribe wer-reh.</p>
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