



Eye of the Eagle



Volume 8, Number 2

THE CARTER CENTER

July 2007

Four-Country Tour Highlights

A delegation visited four countries in Africa in February to bring attention to the Carter Center's work to fight disease on the continent. During the tour of Ghana, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Nigeria, the group talked with community members who receive treatment under Carter Center-assisted programs, met with government and medical leaders, and discussed program challenges with other partners and donors. The Carter

Center delegation included former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter; John Moores, chairman of the board of trustees; Dr. John Hardman, president; and Dr. Don Hopkins, vice president for health programs.

In Ghana, the group visited a village endemic with trachoma and another that was experiencing a large outbreak of Guinea worm disease.

During the trip to Sudan, President Carter met with authorities in Khartoum and Juba. Accompanied by Jimmy Ross, president of Lions Clubs International, President Carter met with the recently organized Lions Club in Khartoum. Lions Clubs International Foundation funds most Carter Center-assisted programs for controlling trachoma and river blindness in Sudan and Ethiopia.

In Ethiopia, the delegation attended a Carter Center-sponsored conference, in which health and education ministry officials from nine African countries learned about the

Ethiopia Public Health Training Initiative. The program works with Ethiopian universities to train public health workers. The goal is for other countries to replicate the program.

Additionally, Carter Center officials announced new malaria

What's Inside



Trachoma

Trachoma Program Review Reflects on 2006 Accomplishments

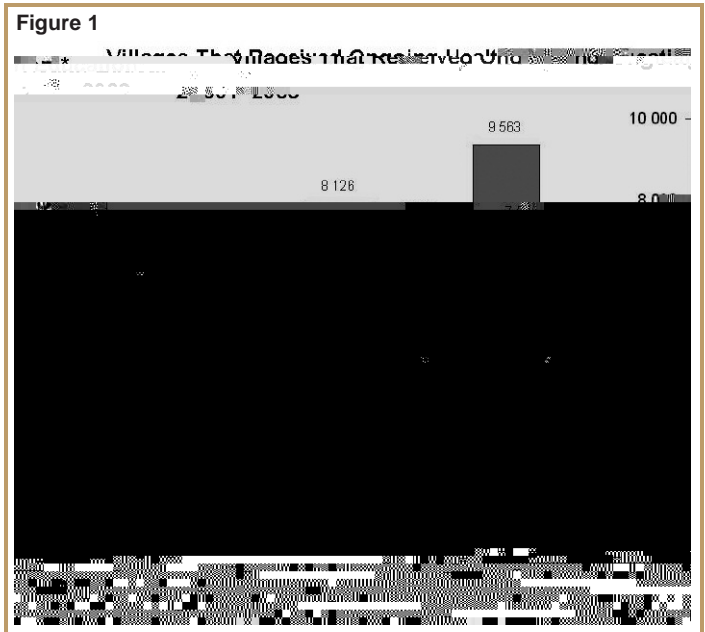
The eighth annual review of Carter Center-assisted trachoma control programs took place April 16-18, 2007, at The Carter Center in Atlanta, Ga. More than 60 people participated, representing the seven Carter Center-assisted programs in six countries and the programs' major partners, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Lions Clubs International Foundation, and Pfizer, Inc.

National program coordinators reported on progress made in 2006 and their program objectives for 2007.

The theme of the meeting was "Ten years after the launch of GET 2020: Where are we now?" and reflected on accomplishments over the past decade among all seven trachoma control programs. In addition, participants discussed how to move forward to deliver quality program interventions through expansion.

In addition to the country programs, the review highlighted the importance of evidence-based planning and evaluations. Data from latrine evaluations completed in Mali, Niger, and Ghana in 2006 were presented and discussed during the meeting. Special sessions also included presentations on achieving gender equity in the implementation of the SAFE strategy (the World Health Organization's four-pronged approach to controlling

trachoma: surgery, antibiotics, facial cleanliness, and environmental improvement), monitoring antibiotic distribution, maintaining progress in latrine promotion, and monitoring hygiene behavior using a standard



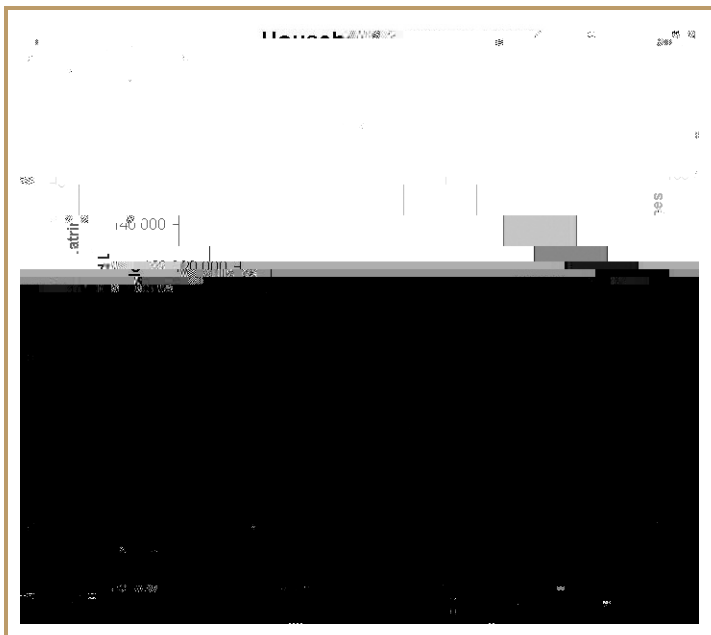
definition of a clean face. The Carter Center Trachoma Control Program unveiled the new online trachoma health education materials library, hosted on its Web site.

The following are 2006 highlights by country (national data; also see Figures 1, 2, 3 and Table 1).

Ghana

- 882,217 people received azithromycin
- 889 household latrines constructed
- 626 people received trichiasis surgery

Country	Facial Cleanliness and Environmental Improvement	Antibiotics	Trachoma Surgery	Household Latrines
Ethiopia	9,563	882,217	626	889
Nigeria	8,126	882,217	626	889
Ghana	2,245	882,217	626	889
Mali	4,438	882,217	626	889
Niger	809	882,217	626	889
Sudan	4,512	882,217	626	889
Total	29,793	882,217	626	889
Percent coverage	85.2%	41.7%	65.9%	42.5%



Ethiopia

- Integration of malaria and trachoma programs in the Amhara region
- 52,000 people received trichiasis surgery
- 4,374,796 people received azithromycin

Mali

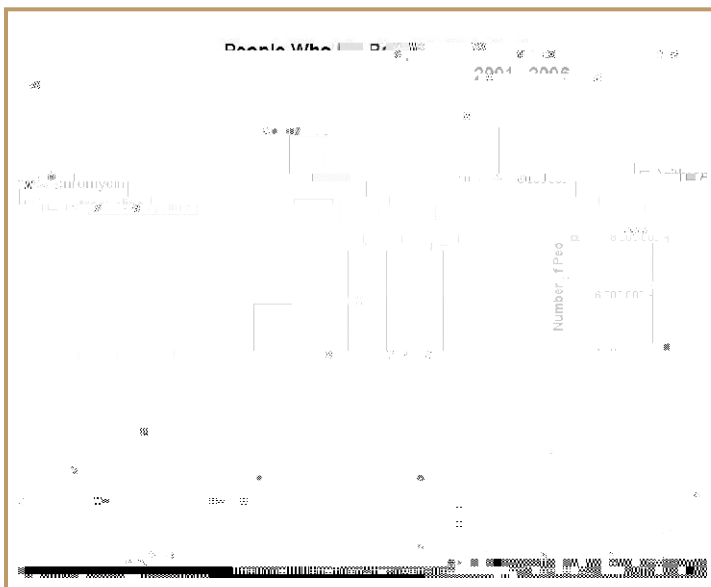
- 14,557 household latrines constructed
- 500 villages received ongoing health education
- 3,935,247 people received azithromycin

Niger

- 6,777 household latrines constructed
- 4,500 people received trichiasis surgery
- 2,532,047 people received azithromycin

Nigeria

- 6,128 household latrines constructed
- 446 villages received ongoing health education
- Trachoma prevalence survey in Katsina state conducted
- Integration of trachoma control with other neglected tropical diseases in Plateau and Nasarawa states



Trachoma

As part of the F (facial cleanliness) component of the SAFE strategy for trachoma control, The Carter Center in Niger assists health districts in training women in the preparation of traditional soap. Through other health education channels, women learn about the

4,738,892 people
with Mectizan in
2006 and also in
443,066 passive treatments.

Mass treatments totaled 96 percent of the ultimate treatment goal of 4,943,904, an 11 percent increase over 2005 treatments. Many years of high Mectizan coverage have resulted in improved vision in Nigeria (see photo and the article: Emukah EC, et al. A longitudinal study of impact of repeated mass ivermectin treatment on clinical manifestations of onchocerciasis in Imo State, Nigeria. *Am J Trop Med Hyg.* 2004;70:556-61).

In Plateau and Nasarawa states, the River Blindness Program is integrated with the Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Program (with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and GlaxoSmithKline),

International Foundation funding through The Carter Center, but local Lions Clubs continue to actively support the program.

Sudan

African countries should seize every opportunity to integrate efforts against these two diseases and other compatible interventions. The group also recommended that everything possible be done to preserve the gains of the Onchocerciasis Control Program (OCP).

The 10th meeting of the ITFDE was convened at The Carter Center in Atlanta, Ga., and supported by the Bill

Global Health News

Technical Adviser Honored in Sudan

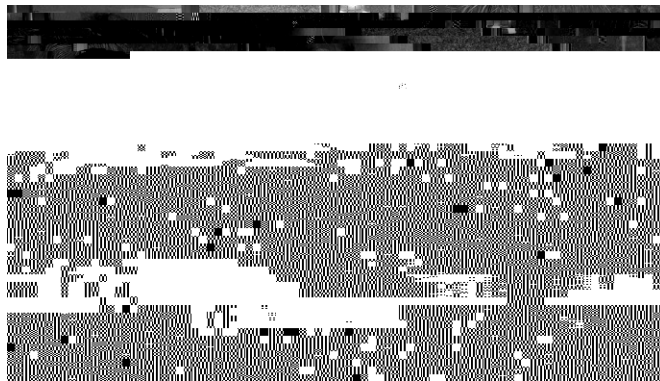
A Carter Center warrior in the fight against neglected diseases in Africa since 2001, Raymond Stewart has been honored for his service by the president of Sudan with the prestigious Order of the Two Niles award.

Stewart began his career with The Carter Center in Burkina Faso, where he was the resident technical adviser for the Guinea Worm Eradication Program. Once cases in the country had been brought down to fewer than 100 per year, Stewart moved to Khartoum, Sudan, in 2003 to coordi-

nate three Carter Center health programs in the 16 northern states— Guinea worm, trachoma, and river blindness.

During his tenure, Stewart guided the transfer of the trachoma and river blindness programs from the Academy of Science and Medical Technology to the Sudan Ministry of

Health, promoted the creation of a national trachoma task force, and helped decentralize the trachoma program to Sudan's endemic states.



Tong Chor

(Left to right) Lion Dr. Al Khair Khalef Allah, deputy of the president; Lion Dr. Moses Katarwa, Carter Center epidemiologist; Lion Raymond Stewart, Carter Center resident technical adviser; and Dr. Kamal Eldin Hashim, director of the Sudan National Program for the Prevention of Blindness.

This issue is made possible in part thanks to the Michael G. DeGroote Health Program Publications Fund.

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