

Memorandum

**Date:** May 31, 2023  
**From:** WHO Collaborating Center for Dracunculiasis Eradication, CDC  
**Subject:** GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #298  
**To:** Addressees

*Detect early. Contain all. Find source.*

**SOUTH SUDAN:  
MINISTER OF HEALTH VISITS ENDEMIC AREA**



(Carter Center/Samir Bol)



Ms. Yolanda Awel Deng Juach led a visit to Lafon in Lopa/Lafon County of Eastern Equatoria State on Monday, April 24, 2023. Lopa/Lafon

Guinea Worm Eradication Program (SSGWEP) reported in 2022 year, on July 27. The

Mr. Samuel Makoy Yibi, The Carter

Ms. Paige Alexander, Vice President Craig Withers, Guinea Worm Program Director Adam Weiss and Deputy Director Sarah Yerian, and Country Representative Jim Niquette, among many others including national, state and local government.

With World Health Organization (WHO) support, the SSGWEP held a planning workshop on May 18-19, 2023 to sustain the Guinea Worm Community-Based Surveillance System in counties transitioning to Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) and in cross-border counties. The workshop included participants from Central and Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes, Warrap, and Western Bahr El Ghazal

States. Dr. Andrew Seidu Korkor  
updates/orientation on the revised criteria for certification.

South Sudan has reported no Guinea worm case or infection in January-April 2023.

### **ANGOLA: MORE DOG INFECTIONS**

Angola has reported 18 confirmed Guinea worm infections in dogs

These two districts are a single epidemiological zone on both sides of the Logone River, which is the international border between the two countries in this area and is shared by extended families. Cameroon began proactive tethering of dogs in the affected area late in 2021 and expanded active surveillance in January 2022. Since February 2023, teams have treated almost all eligible water sources with Abate. Cameroon held a district level cross-

Abate, proactive tethering, and other shared interventions. The program is seeking to address deficiencies in proactive tethering and disposal of fish guts. The peak transmission season for Guinea worm infections here is January-April, the dry season. Cameroon has not found any human Guinea worm cases this year.

The World Health Organization (WHO) certified Cameroon as Guinea worm-free in 2007, ten years after the country reported its last indigenous case in 1997. The country reported no Guinea worm infections in 2008-2018, then reported 2 human cases, 15 infected dogs, and 1 infected cat in 2019-2021, followed by

Nigeria on the northwest side of Extreme North Province, in or near the Mandara Mountains while all Guinea worm infections in Cameroon beginning in 2019 have occurred on the southeast side of Extreme North Province at the border with Chad.

*There are always results in Guinea Worm Eradication Programs. If you do good work, there will be good results. If you do bad work, there will be bad results.*

Dieudonne Sankara

## **CHAD**



## CHAD AND SOUTH SUDAN MINISTERS ATTEND GW MEETING AT WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY



Representatives of Angola, Central African Republic, Chad, and South Sudan participated in the unofficial meeting on Guinea worm eradication hosted by The Carter Center at the John Knox International Center in Geneva on May 23, 2023, during the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly. Representatives of Angola, Central African Republic, and Chad presented at the meeting and the

were represented by strong delegations, including Minister of Health Yolanda Awel Deng Juach, Director-General for Preventive Health Services at the Ministry of Health Dr. John Rumunu, and National Program Coordinator Samuel Makoy Yibi of South Sudan, and Minister of Health Dr. Abdel-Madjid Abderrahim Mahamat and Secretary General Dabsou Guidaoussou of Chad. Angola was represented by Secretary of State for Public Health Dr. Carlos Alberto Pinto de Sousa and Central African Republic by National Neglected Tropical Diseases Program Coordinator Dr. Bernard Boua.

The vigorous discussion highlighted the need to accelerate interventions, the importance of ministerial visits to the field, and pledges by countries to fulfill commitments of the 2022 Abu Dhabi Declaration. Donor representatives included the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, United Arab Emirates, Vestergaard, BASF, GLIDE, and others. Carter Center Vice President Dr. Kashef Ijaz and GWEP Director Adam Weiss attended the meeting, as well as World Health Organization Assistant Director-General Prof. Jérôme Salomon, NTD Director Dr. Socé Fall, and NTD Elimination and Eradication Team Lead Dr. Dieudonné Sankara, and other partner representatives. Dr. Ijaz, Prof. Salomon, Dr. Fall and Mr. Weiss each addressed the meeting. Ms. Tala Al Ramahi was invited to speak and shared reflections on the importance of disease eradication and the United Arab Emirates' long-standing commitment to Guinea worm eradication.

### GUINEA WORM WARRIOR DR. FERNANDO TORRES-VELEZ



Esteemed Guinea Worm Warrior Dr. Fernando Torres-Velez DVM, who joined The Carter Center Guinea Worm Team as Associate Director for Research in February 2020, left that position in May 2023 to join the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as Director of their Division of High-Consequence Pathogens and Pathology. Over the past three years, Dr. Torres supported substantial expansion of an already significant research agenda to include as of now *D. medinensis* transmission dynamics, genomics, diagnostics, and immunology; investigation of flubendazole to potentially treat and prevent Guinea worm infection in dogs in Chad; environmental monitoring; and studies of Guinea worm infections in Ethiopian baboons. He accomplished all this despite the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, which spanned his entire tenure at The Carter Center. Some of the latest impressive results of this research were reported at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Review Meeting of GWEP Program Managers that was held virtually in March 2023. THANK YOU, Fernando!!

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

World Health Organization, 2023. Dracunculiasis eradication: global surveillance summary, 2022. Wkly Epidemiol Rec 98:205-224. <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/367924/WER9820-205->