


Date: June 14, 1999

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

Subject:  GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #91

To: Addressees

Detect Every Case, Contain Every Worm!

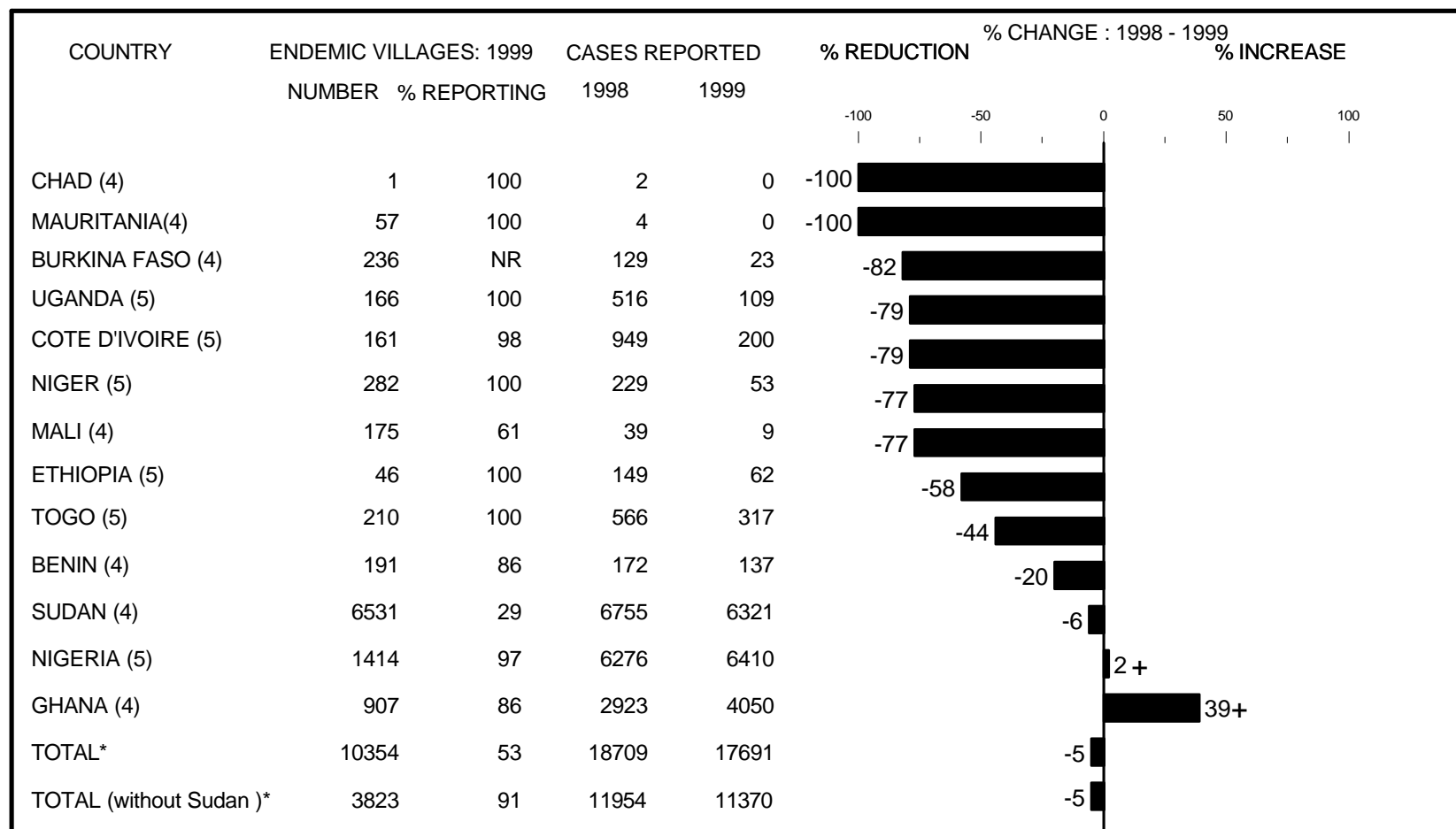
COUNTRIES OUTSIDE OF SUDAN, NIGERIA, AND GHANA REDUCE DRACUNCULIASIS BY 69% IN JANUARY-APRIL 1999

The ten endemic countries outside of Sudan, Nigeria and Ghana (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Togo, and Uganda) have dramatically resumed their collective march to dracunculiasis eradication. As illustrated in Figure 1, the ten countries reduced their reported cases of the disease from 2,121 in January-April 1998, to 654 cases during the same period of 1999, a reduction of 69.2. The individual rates of reduction in the ten countries during the 4 month period are: Chad, 100%; Mauritania, 100%; Burkina Faso, 82%; Uganda, 86%; Cote d'Ivoire, 79%; Niger, 81%; Mali, 77%; Ethiopia, 74%; Togo, 52%; and Benin, 20%. This four month period includes part of the peak transmission season in Chad, Uganda, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Togo, And Benin. Table 1 and figure 2 show the latest update of cases reported and percent changes in cases by country. The status of surveillance in Burkina Faso, however, is still uncertain.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Percentage of Endemic Villages Reporting and Percentage Change in Number of Indigenous Cases of Dracunculiasis During 1998 and 1999 *, by Country



* Provisional. Totals do not include imported cases.

(2) Denotes number of months for which reports were received, e.g., Jan. - Feb., 1999

NR Countries with unknown or low rate of reporting.

JAPAN GRANTS \$150,000 TO CARTER CENTER FOR SUDAN

In an impressive ceremony recorded by print, radio and television media at the Embassy of Japan in Khartoum on June 10th, the Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Junnosuke Kage, and Mr. Elvin Hilyer of The Carter Center (Global 2000), signed an agreement under which the Government of Japan will provide approximately US\$150,000 to The Carter Center for the Guinea Worm Eradication Program in Sudan. The grant, made under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP, formerly Small Scale Grant Assistance), is the first such GGP grant to a Non-Governmental Organization in Sudan. Funding from this grant, which will be divided between activities in northern and southern areas of Sudan, will be used mainly to purchase over 36,000 square meters of nylon filter material, which will be distributed to between 150,000 and 200,000 households in endemic villages. Also participating in the signing ceremony were the Deputy to the Ambassador, the Second Secretary, and the Director of Humanitarian Assistance of the Embassy of Japan; Dr. Nabil Aziz, National Coordinator of the Sudan Guinea Worm Eradication Program (SGWEP); Mr. Hashim Elkhalfa, Deputy National Coordinator, SGWEP; and Nancy Hilyer and Ayman El Sheikh of Global 2000's office in Khartoum. This grant, as well as grants totaling \$305,000 which were awarded in March for use in Nigeria, were made in follow-up to the Government of Japan's pledge to provide \$2.5 million to The Carter Center for the global Guinea Worm Eradication Program.

NIGERIA: GENERAL GOWON VISITS SW, NE, AND NW ZONES

Former Nigerian Head of State General Dr. Yakubu Gowon

audiences that “Eradicating Guinea worm by 2000 is a task that must be done!”

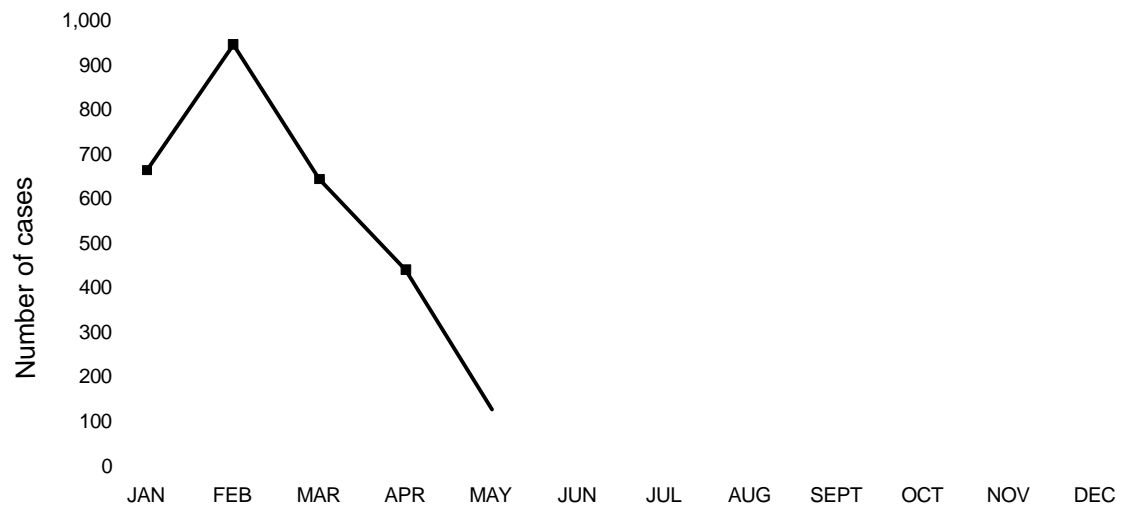
The status of monthly incidence in the six highest endemic states of Nigeria are given in Figures 3A & 3B. Nigeria marked National Guinea Worm Eradication Day on March 18th, when the Federal Minister of Health, the Honorable Prof. Adebo S. Adeyemi, held a ministerial press briefing in Abuja. General Gowon was a special guest of honor at the briefing. Dr. Donald Hopkins of The Carter Center, and Dr. Nevio Zagaria of the World Health Organization were among the external participants in a meeting of NIGEP’s steering committee, which was held in Jos on May 25th-26th. The Yakubu Gowon Center was also represented at this steering committee meeting for the first time, by Ms. Mairo Zakari. In follow-up to the previous steering committee meeting, Southwest and Northeast Zones have begun pilot experiments with offering small cash rewards to encourage reporting of cases of dracunculiasis. A new shipment of 15,000 square meters of nylon filter material purchased by Global 2000/The Carter Center (~\$60,000) arrived in Nigeria in mid-May and is being distributed, with priority to Northeast and Northwest Zones, which are entering their peak transmission periods.

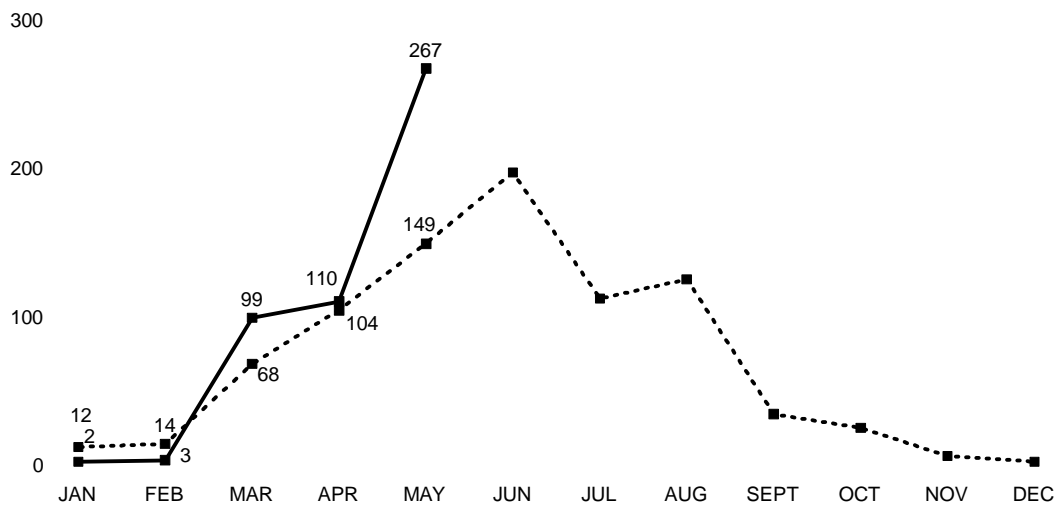
NIGER CELEBRATES WORM WEEK '99 IN ZINDER

Fifty teams, each including one of forty-two American Peace Corps Volunteers or one or two of thirteen Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, and with one Nigerian “animator” counterpart on each team, spent one week visiting villages in the most endemic areas of Zinder and Tillabery Departments. In Zinder, thirty teams, which worked mainly in the cantons of Tirmini, Ouame and Albarkaram, in late May, traveled on foot, from household to household, hamlet to hamlet talking to villagers about how to prevent Guinea worm disease, and distributing cloth filters. In Tera Arrondissement of Tillabery Department, twenty teams visited the 20 most endemic villages and their 94 hamlets, and distributed almost 5,000 filters from May 1 - 7, working mainly in the canton of Dargol and the area around the village of Bankilare (Gorouol Canton). U.S. Peace Corps is also supporting two theater troupes, which have performed skits in 18 villages so far in Bankalare and Zarma/Fulfulde regions, also conveying messages about Guinea worm prevention.

Mr. Harry Godfrey and Mr. Christopher Duggar, consultants provided by Global 2000/The Carter Center,

Nigeria Guinea Worm Eradication Program
Number of cases of dracunculiasis reported from Ebonyi State during 1998-1999*





HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL PROVIDES MORE SUPPORT FOR FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES

Dr. Anders Seim of Health and Development International (HDI) has announced new support for seven francophone countries in follow-up to discussions held at the Program Review in Dakar, Senegal last March. The seven countries are Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Senegal and Togo. The total amount of additional support to be