WHO Collaborating Center for Research, Training and Eradication of Dracunculiasis has reported substantially weaker transmission of Guinea worm during the peak period of Sudan’s 2007 season compared to Ghana, with a peak in cases for Sudan in October-November. However, in Sudan, early 2007 reports indicated 70% fewer cases compared to the peak in the previous year. In Ghana, the peak period 2006-2007 has seen a reduction of 100 fewer cases than in 2006 and 2007.

**Countdown to Glory**
Consecutive months with zero indigenous cases:
- Ethiopia 12
- Cote d’Ivoire 9
- Burkina Faso 7
- Togo 6
- Nigeria 3
- Niger 1

**SUDAN VS GHANA: WHO WILL REACH ZERO CASES FIRST?**

Figure 1
Cumulative Number of Cases of Dracunculiasis Reported During 2006 and 2007*

As of the mid-point of calendar year 2007, Ghana has reported substantially more cases (2,805 cases through May) of Dracunculiasis than Sudan (1,611 cases through May) for this year (Figure 1, Table 1). Although most of Sudan’s peak transmission months (April-October) still lie ahead, only the second half (October-December) of Ghana’s peak 2007 season is still to come. Another important difference between the two programs in 2007, however, is in their reductions in cases compared to the same period of 2006: -77% in Sudan so far this year vs. +17% in Ghana. If these disparate trends were to hold for the remainder of the year, Sudan will report approximately 100 fewer cases than Ghana for calendar year 2007 (4,733 cases vs. 4,834).
Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRIES REPORTING CASES</th>
<th>JANUARY</th>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
<th>MARCH</th>
<th>APRIL</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUNE</th>
<th>JULY</th>
<th>AUGUST</th>
<th>SEPTEMBER</th>
<th>OCTOBER</th>
<th>NOVEMBER</th>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
<th>TOTAL*</th>
<th>% CONTAINED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUDAN</td>
<td>33 / 203</td>
<td>43 / 199</td>
<td>49 / 149</td>
<td>121 / 338</td>
<td>459 / 722</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>705 / 1611</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHANA</td>
<td>897 / 1009</td>
<td>692 / 752</td>
<td>455 / 476</td>
<td>235 / 297</td>
<td>239 / 271</td>
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<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>2538 / 2805</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
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<td>0 / 0</td>
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<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>2 / 2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIGER</td>
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<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>1 / 1</td>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>/</td>
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<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>4 / 4</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOGO</td>
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<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>0 / 0</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIGERIA</td>
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<td>9 / 9</td>
<td>1 / 1</td>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>17 / 42</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>BURKINA FASO</td>
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<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>0 / 0</td>
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<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
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<td>/</td>
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<td>/</td>
<td>2 / 2</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
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<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
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<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETHIOPIA</td>
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<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>1 / 1</td>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>/</td>
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<td>/</td>
<td>1 / 1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>1 / 1</td>
<td>0 / 0</td>
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<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>2 / 2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL*</td>
<td>942 / 1249</td>
<td>744 / 961</td>
<td>507 / 628</td>
<td>376 / 636</td>
<td>700 / 995</td>
<td>2 / 2</td>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>0 / 0 / 0</td>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>3271 / 4471</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% CONTAINED</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>73</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% CONT. OUTSIDE SUDAN</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* provisional

Shaded cells denote months when zero indigenous cases were reported. Numbers indicate how many imported cases were reported and contained that month.
Figure 2
Number of Indigenous Cases Reported During the Specified Period in 2006 and 2007*, and Percent Change in Cases Reported

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Indigenous Cases Reported</th>
<th>% CHANGE 2006 - 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togo (6)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cote d'Ivoire (6)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia (6)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali (6)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan (5)</td>
<td>7070</td>
<td>1609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger (6)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso (6)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana (5)</td>
<td>2400</td>
<td>2804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria (6)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>9532</td>
<td>4461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All countries, excluding Sudan and Ghana</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall % change outside of Sudan = 17%
(6) Indicates months for which reports were received, i.e., Jan. -June
* Provisional
IN BRIEF:

Ethiopia has now reported 12 consecutive months with zero known indigenous cases of Dracunculiasis! CONGRATULATIONS, Ethiopia! This good news is slightly qualified by the 4 cases allegedly exported into southern Sudan in December 2006 and January 2007 by persons residing in Gambella Region of Ethiopia, where program access has been limited because of sporadic insecurity over the past few years. The Government of Ethiopia plans to conduct a thorough search of this area over the next few months.

Nigeria. The numbers of consecutive months with zero indigenous cases in each of the Nigerian Guinea Worm Eradication Program’s five operational zones is shown in Figure 3.

Sudan. Dr. Joshua Ologe of the Nigerian Guinea Worm Eradication Program has arrived in southern Sudan to begin assisting that program as a technical advisor.

Figure 3

Zones of Nigeria’s GWEP and Number of Months Elapsed Since the Last Reported Indigenous Case
MEETINGS

Ghana GWEP National Program Review, July 25-27, Tamale, Northern Region.
South Sudan GWEP Coordination Meeting, July 31 – August 1, 2007, Juba South Sudan.
Meeting for pre-certification countries (Benin, Chad, Mauritania), September 4-5, 2007, Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire.
Program Review for endemic francophone countries, September 6-7, 2007, Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire.
Meeting for pre-certification areas (Ethiopia, Kenya, N. Sudan, Uganda), October 16-17, 2007, Addis Ababa.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


Inclusion of information in the Guinea Worm Wrap-Up does not constitute “publication” of that information.
In memory of BOB KAISER


CDC is the WHO Collaborating Center for Research, Training, and Eradication of Dracunculiasis.