



## Memorandum

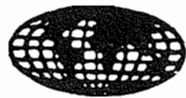
Date June 1, 1989



From WHO Collaborating Center for  
Research, Training, and Control of Dracunculiasis

Subject GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #24

To Addressees



### INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

#### UNICEF APPROVES \$1.55 MILLION FOR GUINEA WORM



UNICEF

UNICEF's Executive Board approved the following resolution at its annual meeting in New York on April 25:

#### ELIMINATION OF GUINEA WORM DISEASE DURING THE 1990s

##### The Executive Board

1. Recognizes the commendable initiative of UNICEF in complementing the effort of countries, other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations towards the elimination of guinea worm in endemic countries;
2. Notes with distress that guinea worm disease affects an average of 10 million people annually, with a population at risk of 120 million in Africa and 20 million in Asia.
3. Notes that the disease can be totally eliminated by health education and the provision of safe drinking water;
4. Notes that the elimination of guinea worm is a sub-goal of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade;
5. Notes that the World Health Assembly has already endorsed that sub-goal in its resolutions WHA 34.25 and WHA 39.21;
6. Notes that the guinea worm elimination programme will form an integral part of UNICEF safe drinking water supply and sanitation programme activities;

7. Recognizes that some guinea worm endemic countries have already taken concrete measures towards the elimination of the disease in the 1990s through active case searches to define the magnitude and distribution of the disease, as well as the formulation of national plans of action;
8. Calls upon all endemic States to intensify measures towards the elimination of guinea worm disease in the 1990s;
9. Authorizes the Executive Director to support guinea worm endemic States in the active case search of the disease and in the formulation of national plans of action;
10. Approves an allocation of \$1,550,000 for the two-year period 1989-1990 for guinea worm country studies and supporting services, as set out in documents E/ICEF/1989/CPR.2 and E/ICEF/1989/P/L.35, with a view to the attainment of the goal of elimination of the disease in the 1990s.

Editorial Note: With the funds approved recently by UNDP's Regional Director for Africa, these funds from UNICEF should insure that by the end of 1990, every endemic African country can have completed a national search for cases of dracunculiasis, and prepared a national plan of action and proposal for funding to submit to other donors. UNICEF will assign a bilingual project officer for assisting projects in the region to its office in Lagos.

#### WHO DECLARES ERADICATION GOAL FOR 1990s

On May 20, the Forty-second World Health Assembly adopted the following resolution (WHA 42.29) during its meeting in Geneva:



#### ELIMINATION OF DRACUNCULIASIS

The Forty-second World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolution WHA 39.21;

Deploring the adverse effects of dracunculiasis (guinea worm disease) on health and its constraining influence on agriculture, education, and the quality of life in affected areas of Africa and Asia, where over 100 million persons remain at risk of infection;

Noting the resolution on the eradication of dracunculiasis adopted by the Regional Committee for Africa in September 1988 (AFR/RC38/R13);

Recognizing the need to sustain the efforts to combat dracunculiasis initiated during the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990);

Encouraged by the progress achieved to date, as described in reports submitted by the Director-General to the Forty-first World Health Assembly and the eighty-third session of the Executive Board;

1. DECLARES the goal of eliminating this disease as a public health problem from the world in the 1990s;
2. ENDORSES a combined strategy of provision of safe water, active surveillance, health education, community mobilization, vector control, and personal prophylaxis, for eliminating the infection;
3. CALLS on all affected Member States:
  - (1) to intensify national surveillance of dracunculiasis, and assess the extent of the disease if they have not yet done so;
  - (2) to establish as soon as possible, within the context of primary health care, plans of action for eliminating dracunculiasis in the 1990s;
  - (3) to give high priority to affected areas in the provision of safe drinking water;
4. INVITES bilateral and international development agencies, private voluntary organizations, foundations, and appropriate regional organizations to continue to support countries' efforts to eliminate dracunculiasis and to ensure that funds are available to accelerate and sustain these efforts;
5. URGES the Director-General:
  - (1) to assist Member States in intensifying surveillance of the prevalence and incidence of dracunculiasis;
  - (2) to stimulate international technical cooperation and coordination;
  - (3) to take the necessary steps for defining appropriate criteria for the certification of elimination;
  - (4) to seek extrabudgetary funds to support these activities;
  - (5) to submit a report on the status of these activities to the Forty-fourth World Health Assembly.

Editorial Note: This resolution received strong verbal support from Ghana and Nigeria at the assembly, both in the plenary and during the discussion of the draft resolution in Committee A. The draft resolution was formally cosponsored by Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. In addition to Ghana and Nigeria, the Netherlands, Sweden, Cyprus, USA, the WHO Regional Director for Africa (Dr. G. Monekosso), and a representative of Global 2000 spoke in favor of the draft resolution when it was discussed.

INTERNATIONAL DONORS CONFERENCE

Planning continues for the international donors conference, "Target 1995: Guinea Worm Eradication," which will be held at the Lagos Sheraton Hotel (Ikeja) in Nigeria on July 30-31, as announced in the previous issue. The keynote speaker will be former U.S. President Jimmy Carter; the conference chairman is Mr. Pierre-Claver Damiba, Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa of UNDP. In addition to senior representatives of UNDP, UNICEF, and Global 2000, the ministers of health of Ghana and Nigeria, and representatives of several donor agencies and private voluntary organizations have already confirmed their intention to attend.

For further information, please contact one of the following:

Dr. Donald R. Hopkins Global 2000, Inc. 1840 N. Hudson Avenue Chicago, IL 60614 Phone: (312) 266-2420	Mr. Patrick Orr Riatt Orr & Associates 14 Buckingham Palace Rd. London SW1, England Phone: 01-828-5961	Mr. P. Craig Withers, Jr. Global 2000, Inc. Federal Secretariat Rm. 913, Second Phase Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria
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THIRD AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRACUNCULIASIS

The Minister of Health of Cote d'Ivoire has agreed that his country will host the Third African Regional Conference on Dracunculiasis, which will be held in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire, in March 1990, in cooperation with the WHO's Regional Office for Africa. More details in the next issue.

SURVEILLANCE

Data available as of May 22, 1989 (Cases of dracunculiasis):

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
Benin	N.A.	400	13,892
Cameroon	86	N.A.	746
Ethiopia	3,385	N.A.	751
Ghana	4,717	18,398	71,767
India	23,070	17,031	12,023
Mali	5,640	435	584
Nigeria	N.A.	216,484	653,492
Pakistan	N.A.	2,400(est)	1,111
Sudan	822	N.A.	542
Togo	1,325	N.A.	156

All endemic countries which have not yet done so are urged to telex the reported number of cases for 1988 to WHO as soon as possible.



**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**

Annan, CK, 1989. Eliminating Guinea Worm in Ghana. World Water, April, pp. 40-41.

We are in the process of updating the Guinea Worm Wrap-Up mailing list. To continue receiving this publication, please send your name, title, and address to:

Dr. Ernesto Ruiz-Tiben  
Division of Parasitic Diseases, CID  
Mail Stop: F-22  
Centers for Disease Control  
Atlanta, GA 30333 U.S.A.

If we do not receive the form below by August 31, 1989, we will assume that you no longer wish to be on the mailing list. Thank you.

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